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PART IV.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

IN THE

ASIATIC PROVINCES OF TURKEY.

122

January to June 1881.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Administrative Reforms in the Asiatic Provinces of Turkey.

Part IV.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 4307.]

No. 1.

Extract from a private Letter from Colonel Wilson, dated Smyrna, December 23, 1880.—
(*Received at the Foreign Office, January* 6, 1881.)

FROM what I have heard from my Dragoman, and from other Armenians, I believe there is a real intention on the part of the Armenians to force the situation; the question is when they will act. I think they will keep quiet till spring, as the snow will render any assistance from Russia extremely difficult during winter. However, the presence of a mobilized Russian force near the frontier may hasten matters. I hear many young Armenians have been quietly leaving Constantinople for Russia and Van, but the numbers have probably been exaggerated. After all deductions from what I have heard, sufficient is left to show that the Armenian question is becoming a very pressing one, and should receive the attention of the Powers at an early date.

Chermside has given me a memorandum on the subject which I inclose.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Memorandum.

VARIOUS items of intelligence have come to my knowledge, which, taken collectively, point to a rather widespread idea or intention of, or wish among the Armenians for, some outbreak which may hurry matters on, and call for foreign intervention. The neighbourhood of Van seems to be the possible scene of this.

1. The Catholicos of Sis was this summer at Sis, Hadjui, Gorum, Derende, Sivas, (out of his See), Elbistan, &c. At Sivas his discourses, which were much in favour of progress and education, and which contained injunctions for the people and the Christian members in the Courts to learn and assert their rights, could hardly be called seditious as far as I could learn; equally were they calculated to foster the national idea, any ebullitions of which with an ignorant people are likely to be of a seditious or rebellious nature. Concurrently, however, with his visit the rumour spread that Babek, the Zeitoun ex-outlaw, was ready to lead the Armenians in case of any contest with the Turks.

The Catholicos' recent declaration (communicated to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires) of an intention on the part of the Marash authorities to attack and crush the Zeitounlis is very likely a mere counter-stroke to deprecate any projected action which disaffection at Zeitoun (now zealously stimulated by the Armenian National party) may have induced the Turkish authorities to prepare for. Catholicos is unscrupulous, of immoral character, and an arch intriguer; his conduct caused much

trouble in the Zeitoun affair. He is now at Constantinople, summoned thither, I am told, by the Patriarch at the instance of the Turkish authorities, though he denies this. He is not at present on good terms with the Patriarch.

2. I have heard, but cannot vouch for the fact, that Babek has been storing provisions in his old retreat in the mountains.

3. I have heard many rumours, some from people likely to be very well informed, of a projected disturbance near Van, fostered and subsidized by Russians or Russian Armenians. The number of armed men ready near Igdyr for an incursion into Turkish territory I heard to be 3,000.

4. A Russian concentration of troops at Nakhi-Tchevan is, I believe (from the paper), a fact. Nominally, it is necessitated by the Kurdish rebellion, and probably enough this is its sole cause, but the moral effect of its presence might be utilized for other purposes.

5. I have heard of the Armenians secretly arming; this could only be effected on a large scale with very great difficulty, and is a rumour to be accepted with the greatest caution.

6. A rumour of a *rapprochement* between Kurds and Armenians is not one to which I would attach much importance.

In many districts, however, common animosity to the Turk, and Christian traditions, have maintained kindly feelings between the Armenians and Zizil-Bash Kurds (not in Kurdistan).

7. An Armenian doctor in the Turkish service, Roufren Roufrenian, recently at Erzinjian, and then at Van, has fled to Igdyr, in Russia; a letter from him to his wife in Armenia came into my hands; I had it translated, and gave the translation to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, suggesting that it be sent to Her Majesty's Vice-Consul, Van. According to this lett the writer is well supplied with money in Russia, is member of some organizat a, hopes to revenge himself on the Pasha of Van, is implicated too deeply to return to Turkey, and, if the projected affair fails, means to go to America. Two Turkish ex-officials, the writer states, are with him.

8. I had heard of one of the intriguing Vartabets (monks), removed from Zeitoun at my instance, being engaged in intrigues with Russian agents. When at Constantinople I made inquiries as to him and his brother-in-law, a young educated Armenian whom I found intriguing in the Taurus last year. I learnt that the latter, Shukarian Haratun, had been recently at Igdyr, in Russia. I heard that the monk had been in Russia, too, but fancy the latter statement is a mistake. This may be mere chance, but it gives an importance to No. 7, such a vague, unsupported piece of intelligence would not otherwise possess.

9. Major Kamsaragan, Russian Vice-Consul, Van, is said to have visited Bitlis, Diarbekir (where there is a Russian Consul), Kharput, Erzinjian, and (?) Karahissar this autumn.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE, *Lieutenant, R.E.*

Smyrna, December 22, 1880.

No. 2.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 6, 1881.)

(No. 694.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 27, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of a despatch, with inclosures, which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, on the subject of the riots at Sivas, which were reported in Lieutenant Chermside's despatch forwarded in my despatch No. 677 of the 17th instant.

In conformity with Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson's desire that the imprudent conduct of Hakki Pasha should be brought to the notice of the Porte, I deemed it expedient to cause a memorandum of Colonel Wilson's despatch to be drawn up, and shall take the first opportunity of submitting it to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

[Should follow No. 1 on page 2.]

No. 1*.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 6, 1881.)

(No. 690.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 22, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's despatch to your Lordship, No. 492, of the 21st October last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Captain Everett containing observations on Major Trotter's Memorandum on the influence of Her Majesty's Consuls in the provinces.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 1*.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

Sir, *Erzeroum, December* 7, 1880.

I HAVE read your Memorandum of the 19th October on Consular influence with great attention, and, in accordance with your instructions, will briefly state my own views on the subject.

I have long felt that our present position leaves much to be desired. The chief defect in it is the want of connection with the Local Government producing a practical dependence on the will of the Governor, only to be combated by the influence of the Ambassador; consequently, when this influence is small, as at present, the Consuls can do nothing.

The effect of this may be observed every day. A petition, for example, is handed in from the districts. The Consul takes it to the Governor, who, professing ignorance, real or affected, says he will examine into it. Although the Consul may possess evidence from private sources and be quite certain of the accuracy of the petition, this evidence is not accepted, and until the Government has itself examined, no official notice is taken of the matter. This examination generally consists in a letter written to the local Kaïmakam who, after a considerable lapse of time, reports the matter to have been greatly exaggerated, and so it slips through our fingers.

Were we sure of support from Constantinople, we could, of course, press matters much closer. Without it we can do but little, so long at least as we remain in our present positions, for by continually representing and failing to obtain satisfaction, we should soon lose the little prestige that is left to us. Besides which the Governor knows our weakness as well as we do ourselves. In order, then, to obviate the necessity of appeal to the Ambassador, and to insure something being done, it would probably be advisable to attach the English officials to the Local Government.

In suggesting the following method, I have kept in mind that it is only for certain reforms that greater influence is required. It will not assist the formation of a gendarmerie, or the plantation of forests, or in fact any of those reforms which, affecting the community at large, depend on money for their execution. But it is urgently needed in the selection, retention, and dismissal of officials, and in all those questions which affect particularly the welfare of the Christian, by far the most important class of reform at this moment, for so long as the Christian remains oppressed, so long will there be the danger of his revolting and upsetting all reform by creating fresh disturbances in the country, or perhaps another war.

I should suggest, therefore, first of all, a change of title; it matters not what it is so long as it is not Consul. This change would prevent our present colleagues from complaining of a partiality from which they are excluded. Secondly, I should propose the creation of a special Court of Justice, whose business would be the trial of all cases of oppression, of all grievances set forth in petitions by Christians, and of all law-suits between Mussulmans and Christians, the trial of which in the ordinary Courts has failed to give satisfaction either to the complainant or defendant. The English official should be at least a member of this Court. Its powers and composition should be carefully considered, but the essential points should be that appeals and petitions should be made directly to the Court as well as to the Governor-General. That the examination of witnesses should be conducted in their own language, and

that the cases should not be allowed to be reopened, appeal only being permitted to a higher Court of a similar nature at Constantinople.

In addition to being a member of this Court, the English official should also be an honorary member of the Idareh Medjliss, whereby he would be able to remonstrate publicly against the illegal actions of officials, while his pressure and influence would impede the execution of intrigues formed to overthrow the good men.

By some such measures as these a fair chance might be obtained of preventing the dismissal of good officials, of insuring that of unjust and dishonest men, of sifting complaints to the bottom, and of punishing oppression.

But possibly the Porte may not be willing to make, nor Her Majesty's Government be prepared to ask for, such large concessions. If such be so, then your suggestion of a Commission would probably be the next best thing. It may not practically effect much, but it would at all events tranquillize the people, counteract revolutionary tendencies, check those Beys and Notables who, believing that England is powerless to protect the Christians, are recommencing their oppressions, and keep the country quiet generally until such time as further measures may be practicable.

Should the Porte object to a Commission, or, in other words, should it not be possible to do anything at all, then let us give up remonstrating, threatening, and reporting, and let us rather endeavour, by making fast friends with the authorities, to obtain as a favour what we cannot demand as a right. I fully believe we should find this method more successful than the half-measures which we have employed hitherto.

I cannot do better than close this despatch by most emphatically seconding the recommendation suggested in the last paragraph but one of your Memorandum, as well as endorsing the statement which follows it.

I am, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM STEWART,
Captain 33rd Regiment.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. St. John.

(No. 71.)

Smyrna, December 22, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to draw your attention to Mr. Richards' despatch No. 2 of the 26th November last, respecting the action taken by Hakki Pasha, the Vali of Sivas, in regard to the Armenian riot at Sivas on the 23rd October last.

I have also to forward three letters which I have recently received, on the same subject, from the Armenian Bishop and the Armenian community of Sivas.

The nature and extent of the disturbance, which was of a very disgraceful character, are fully described in Lieutenant Chermside's despatch No. 30 of the 7th November last. The Vali, at the time of the riot, behaved with great moderation and prudence, but he seemed afterwards to wish to give it political importance, and to implicate the Armenian Bishop and the leading Armenians of Sivas. The manner in which the Vali has subsequently managed the affair appears to me to be extremely unwise, and to be likely to create feelings of ill-will between Christian and Moslem which will not be easily appeased, and which may lead to serious consequences.

The points to which I would more especially draw your attention are, that though the Vali told Lieutenant Chermside, soon after the disturbance, that he had the names of the rioters, and was urged by that officer to proceed against them, no arrests were made until the 18th November, more than three weeks after the incident; that the Vali stopped the telegrams of the Armenians until he had reported the riot, in accordance with his own views, to the Porte, and had received instructions from Constantinople for his guidance; the arrest of two Armenian Notables, Antranik Effendi and Glyanossian Effendi, against whom there appears to have been no trustworthy evidence; the summary arrest of a boy of 14 in a school; and the Court of Inquiry held by the Vali, the Presidents of the Courts, and the officer commanding the Redifs, which, though probably not illegal, was an extremely imprudent measure, tending to irritate the Armenians.

The action of the Armenian rioters cannot be for a moment defended, and it is important that those who actually took part in it should be punished in accordance with the law. I would beg, however, to suggest that the very imprudent manner in which Hakki Pasha is conducting the investigation of the affair, and the arbitrary way in which arrests have been made, be brought strongly to the notice of the Porte. I do not know anything more calculated to create dissatisfaction amongst the Armenians, and prejudice them against the Ottoman Government, than the recent action of the authorities at Sivas.

In conclusion, I would beg to observe that Hakki Pasha appears to have become a mere tool in the hands of the notorious Mehemet Ali and the Sivas "ring," whose proceedings have frequently been reported to Her Majesty's Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Letter from Armenian Bishop and Armenian Community of Sivas to Mr. St. John.

(Translation.)

Sivas, October 30 / November 11, 1880.

Excellency,

HADJI ISKENDER AGHA, an honourable Armenian merchant and landowner of Sivas, had made preparations at his house for a wedding, to which seven or eight families were invited. He was at his farm, and was called home by his family. He started from his farm and reached Khanlu, a Turkish village, seven hours distant from Sivas, whence, having rested for a while, he continued his journey. Before he had travelled ten minutes from the village, some armed robbers, whether the villagers or others we do not know, attacked him and barbarously murdered him with stones and clubs, and robbed him of nearly 150 liras, the proceeds of grain he had sold, and of everything that he had about him.

The following day Iskender Agha's family was informed that he was slightly wounded, and that they must take him home in an araba.

The next day, Saturday, about 11 o'clock Turkish (3·30 P.M.) the mutilated corpse was brought to the konak. Consternation reigned amongst his family and guests,

who applied immediately to the authorities, and had the corpse examined and inspected. In consequence of the lateness of the hour, they then brought it to the church.

The Vali returned to his private residence, and the murdered man's family to their desolate house. The latter, when they got home, found that a refugee thief, seeing the house empty, was attempting to pillage it. They caught him and handed him to the police, but he managed to make his escape in the crowd. Excited perhaps by this incident, they made their way to the Vali's private residence, in front of which a large crowd, consisting of people returning home from their day's labour, passers-by, Armenians, Greeks, Turks, refugees, and many boys, had collected. Night was setting in, and it is said that some of the crowd threw stones at the Vali's windows.

The Vali accused the Armenians of throwing the stones, and demanded of us, in the strongest terms, the names of the offenders. We replied that we were not there when the incident occurred, but that if he had seen who they were, and to which nationality they belonged, he could note and punish them. After the crowd had dispersed he telegraphed the incident everywhere, giving it the colour and appearance of a rebellion, and exaggerating what had occurred.

The following day he saw nothing which could support the view that he had taken. Every one was at his ordinary work. Armenians and Turks are, as usual, on friendly terms. The Vali only heard complaints of his carelessness and indifference. He then tried to incite the Moslems against the Armenians, and failing to do this, wished to throw the blame on the Armenian Notables, and particularly on myself, as if the disturbance were the result of a deliberate thought. The educated Moslems attached no importance to the affair, and strengthened the bonds of friendship with the Armenians. Those four persons, however, who are hated by the community, and of whom complaints have been and are still being made, both by Armenians and Turks, considered it a favourable opportunity for nullifying the charges brought against them, or at least for retarding their effect for a time. They managed to mix themselves up in the affair, flattered the Vali, and supported his views. They tried to fasten upon us all the responsibility, even though we were at the convent half-an-hour from the town when the incident occurred. The said four persons, Mehemet Ali being at the head, in order that they might play their well-known rôle, had a Mahzar and a Mazbata drawn up. They did not sign the papers themselves on purpose, but had the former signed by some Moslems and the latter by some Government officials.

These documents represent the insignificant affair as a rebellion, and accuse us of having originated it. Strange! Who could have dreamed that the mutilated corpse of Hadji Iskender Agha would have suddenly come forward and given rise to such a disturbance? Why do they wish to represent it in this light? Because within the last few days, thanks to the apathy and indifference of our Vali, cases of pillage, robbery, oppression, and, what is worse, murders, have taken place, and the people are so much afraid that no one dares to go out.

Excellency, the people demand and beg security for life, honour, and property; new cases constantly arise, and, when brought to the notice of the authorities, they are either not attended to or very inadequate measures are taken. In order to discredit our representations on this point, they bring forward this sort of unfounded imputation. In short, the Vali has adopted this course that he may free himself from the reproach of apathy, heedlessness, indifference, and inefficiency which have made the people so dissatisfied with him.

We have explained all the above in detail, and earnestly beg you to assist us by your effective interference. We wait for this from hour to hour, and hope to obtain it at the hands of your Excellency.

(Signed) BEDROSS, *Bishop of Sivas.*

Temporal Council,
(Signed) G. ODABASHIAN, *President.*
G. PROUTTIAN, *Secretary.*

General National Assembly,
(Signed) A. GLYANOSSIAN, *President.*
A. KAPRIELIAN, *Secretary.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

" *Return of Armenians recently Murdered, Wounded, and Robbed in the Sivas Vilayet.*

(Translation.)

THE following is the list of the murdered, wounded, and robbed within a very short time past:—

Murdered:—

1. Payel Boyadjian.
2. Hussein Tchekem Mehmedian.
3. Barsam Shamlian.
4. Krikor Kodjabashian.
5. Hadji Isken Tahmisdjian.
6. Kurd Musa Oglu Mustapha, of Riahyalu Village.
7. Ahmed Kiahya, of Udjebadja Village.

Wounded, 52. Robbed, 168.

Inclosure 4 in No. 2.

Monsignor Bedross to Mr. St. John.

(Translation.)

Sivas, November $\frac{16}{28}$, 1880.

Excellency,

I HAD the honour to inform your Excellency previously, by letters and telegrams, of the occurrence which took place at Sivas. I regret that I have now only to inform you of the gloomy consequences which have followed.

The Vali, at once the plaintiff and the Judge; the officials; the members of the Courts; those who are in fear of being deprived of their pay, and who are more or less under some influence; and those four persons, hateful to our community and to some Moslems, availing themselves of this opportunity, have commenced to take vengeance upon every one they disliked.

They have made the zaptiehs force their way into our National School and arrest a schoolboy 14 years old; the have imprisoned the President of the National Assembly and its members, and twenty-five other men of different classes, all Armenians; and the number of arrests is increasing every day. At the commencement they said that there were no others but Armenians; now, however, the Vali, having prepared, through the instrumentality of the said four persons, Moslem witnesses from all sides, is continuing to make arrests, and he openly declares that any one who tries to prove the innocence of the prisoners, or intercede for their release, will be considered guilty, so that fear and consternation reign in the heart of every Armenian. This action of the Vali will naturally excite the low-class Moslems against us, and encourage them to come forward as witnesses; instances have happened to prove this.

As long as the Vali remains here he will necessarily look with contempt on the claims, both individual and general, of our nation; and the interests and honour of our community will be endangered; encouraged by this, the fanaticism and bigotry of some Moslems will be aroused, and an effort will be made to reduce us again to a fallen and low position, which will be worse than ever.

Hence we earnestly pray your Excellency that you will confer upon us the great favour of obtaining, as soon as possible, the release of our prisoners and the dismissal of the Vali from the Vilayet; because when a Government is armed against the whole people, it is impossible for the people to live happily. The question whether the Vali will still retain his office or not has become a question of life and death to the Armenians. His severe conduct, the articles he causes to be published in the official "Sivas" paper, and his secret movements, make us fear that the friendly and neighbourly feeling which has existed for centuries between the Christians and Moslems will inevitably be changed into a feeling of dislike and irritation. Henceforo the prosperity of the Armenians in my diocese depends upon the dismissal of our Vali.

Praying that the above may receive your Excellency's favourable consideration,

I remain, &c.

(Signed) BEDROSS.

Inclosure 5 in No. 2.

Letter from Armenian Community to Mr. St. John.

(Translation.)

Sivas, November $\frac{16}{28}$, 1880.

Excellency,

YOUR Excellency having been previously informed, by the letter of his Beatitude the Bishop of Sivas, dated the 22nd October, of the details and causes of the affair which took place here in respect to the Vali, we now take the liberty to inform you of what has happened since.

The occurrence was telegraphed by the people, as well as by the Armenian National Councils, to the Sublime Porte, all the Ambassadors, and the Patriarchate; but we regret to say that the telegrams sent by the National Council did not reach their destinations until the Vali had represented the matter as he liked to the Sublime Porte, and received instructions accordingly. The fact that the telegrams were thus delayed became known to us afterwards.

The Vali, at the instigation of Mehemet Ali and his men (enemies of our community), now began to throw the blame on our community, as if the Bishop and the members of the National Council were the cause of the occurrence, and as if it were the result of deliberate intention. We complained of this accusation to the Sublime Porte and Patriarchate.

A month after this occurrence, that is, on the 4th day of Bairam, the Vali proceeded to arrest different people one by one, and then, after a short examination in his presence, imprisoned them, on the evidence of some low Moslems; he was thus at once plaintiff and Judge, which no law admits.

Up to this moment more than twenty-five people have been put in prison, and arrests are still made.

Your Excellency will easily see that, whilst the Vali and Mehemet Ali are endeavouring as far as they can to represent our community as rebels, many of the people, especially amongst the Moslem lower class, will get excited; any Moslem who has a grudge against an Armenian will come forward and falsely accuse him; this has actually been the case, for an Armenian who was not even in the town when the incident occurred has been accused by a Moslem and put in prison. Among the people arrested and imprisoned thus far there are honourable persons; one of them is Glyanossian Effendi, the President of the Provincial National Assembly; there are other equally honourable men.

It appears, from the course which the Vali is pursuing in the matter, that charges of having been implicated in the riot will be brought against a great many people, and proved by false witnesses (low people under the control of Mehemet Ali); these persons will be condemned, and then promised that if they say that the Bishop and Armenian Notables instigated them to create the disturbance, they will be freed. This is only done with a view of confirming the telegrams forwarded by the Vali to the Sublime Porte, in which the Bishop and the Armenian Notables were accused of having originated the disturbance.

The officials and the members of the Courts, being directly under the control of the Vali, will spare no efforts to do his will. Moreover, the Presidents of the Courts, the Public Prosecutor, and the Inspector of Justice, having already attached their seals to the mazbata and telegrams forwarded to the Sublime Porte by the Vali, in which allegations were made against the above-named persons, will no doubt try to prove them by examinations, however illegal they may be.

We therefore hasten to inform your Excellency that, as long as the Vali remains here near Mehemet Ali, it appears to us impossible for the native Moslems to keep quiet, or to leave the Christians unmolested; because the lower class Moslems, encouraged by the proceedings of the Vali and by the tone and language used in the official "Sivas" newspaper against the Armenians, are beginning to look upon the Christians more and more with contempt and fear.

Consequently, taking refuge in your Excellency's protection, we humbly ask your powerful and effectual assistance in favour of all the Christians in the province, for which we beg to express in advance our thanks and deep gratitude.

Accept, Excellency, the assurance of our deep consideration.

Temporal Council of the Armenian Community of Sivas,

(Signed) G. ODABASHIAN, *President.*

G. PROUTTIAN, *Vice-President.*

No. 3.

Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(Received January 10, 1881.)

(No. 43. Political.)

Trebizond, December 26, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to wire, yesterday, to your Lordship that the transports "Taïf" and "Saar-Nusret" had arrived on the previous morning at Batoum to embark Lazes.

I am informed that 750 families of these emigrants are to be landed at Kerassond, and from thence proceed to Karahissar, which place has been fixed for their residence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 4.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 11, 2 P.M.)

(No. 11.)

(Telegraphic.)

Pera, January 11, 1881, 1·15 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 14.

Consul at Aleppo himself suggested removal of Kaïmakam as solution of difficulty. This being done, the question may be presumed to have been satisfactorily settled.

No. 5.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 13.)

Foreign Office, January 12, 1881.

My Lord,

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch from Captain Clayton, Vice-Consul at Van,† with an extract from a petition which he has received bearing the signatures of 900 Armenians, describing the maladministration of the Turkish officials in that district, more especially in regard to the mode in which they are carrying out the scheme for the rearrangement of the communes, a reform offered by the Porte itself in its note of the 5th July last, and are persisting in nominating the Mudirs notwithstanding the protest of the Powers against that mode of appointment.

I have to request your Excellency to call the attention of the Russian Government to the state of affairs revealed in these papers.

The way in which the Porte is dealing with its offer of reforms would appear to furnish grounds for remonstrance on the part of the Representatives, and Her Majesty's Government would be glad if the Russian Government would instruct their Ambassador at Constantinople to join with his colleagues in a representation to the Porte on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 6.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 14.)

(No. 3.)

Constantinople, January 4, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the subjects of the Kurdish invasion of Persia, an Armenian riot near Mush, a rumoured formation of a Kurdish League, and of a petition from the inhabitants of Göllu against the Mudir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

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* Also to Lord Lyons (No. 35 A), Sir A. Paget (No. 10 A), Sir H. Elliot (No. 13), and Lord Odo Russell (No. 19).

† Captain Clayton to Major Trotter, No. 43.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 44. Political.)

Van, November 23, 1880.

Sir,

FOUR days ago I received information that a collision had occurred in Boulanyk, in the Sandjak of Mush, between Turkish troops and Armenian villagers, and that several individuals had been wounded on both sides, but no details as to the circumstances or causes of the occurrence were given. Yesterday, however, the Dragoman of Major Kamsaragan, the Russian Vice-Consul, arrived from Mush, having left Major Kamsaragan there. He gave me a full account of what had taken place, the village in question being situated about 2½ hours from Mush, and not in Boulanyk, as at first reported.

It appears that a Binbashi, named Hussein Agha, was travelling with his family from Van to Mush, and in all the villages he passed through treated the villagers very badly, forcing them to provide provisions for his party and his horses and carts for his baggage gratuitously, and in several cases beating the Headmen of the villages and others. On approaching the village in question his son rode on ahead and ordered accommodation to be provided. Not being satisfied with what was offered, he began to abuse and strike the villagers and Headman, and apparently they then began to make some show of resistance. The Binbashi then came up, and, drawing his revolver, was about to fire on the villagers, when he was knocked down, and on his attempting to rise again and fire received a second blow on his back, which disabled him. In the *mêlée* some blows fell on one of his suite dressed and armed as a young man, but whose cries betrayed that she was a woman. She, however, was not seriously hurt. With a little difficulty the riot was appeased, when the Binbashi sent word to Mush of what had happened. When the Mutessarif, Mehemed Pasha, received the news, he at once started with some forty soldiers and the Procureur-General for the village. The able-bodied men of the village all fled at his approach, leaving nothing but old men, women, and children. The soldiers plundered many of the houses of the village, and hunting up the men, captured twenty-five and carried them off to Mush, although there was no evidence that any of them except four had been engaged in the riot, and the Procureur-General remonstrated with the Mutessarif in vain. When Major Kamsaragan, who happened to be at Mush, heard what had occurred, and had made inquiries as to the real state of the case, he remonstrated with the Mutessarif on the imprisonment of men who were innocent, and, after some difficulty, got those released against whom there was no evidence. He has remained at Mush, I am told, with the view of watching the end of the affair.

It thus appears that the affair was unpremeditated, and had nothing to do with any scheme of the Armenians for rising of which there have been rumours lately. But it must be remarked that the fact that such a riot should have occurred, and that they should have attempted to resist a Turkish officer, shows a new spirit among them. The Dragoman also told me that if Major Kamsaragan had not been at Mush there might have been serious disturbances there, as both Moslems and Christians were very much excited by the occurrence. The Mutessarif appears to have acted hastily and injudiciously. It is said that the judicial officers have complained to Constantinople about his interference with their functions. I do not, however, as a general principle, approve of the entire irresponsibility to the Local Governments claimed by the judicial authorities, as it leads to the administration of justice being entirely without control. But in this case the Mutessarif seems to have been wrong. He is said to be a very incapable man, and besides, to be continually intoxicated.

I am sorry to say that the complaints of the conduct of the troops become more frequent every day. The troops passing through villages not only take all they want gratuitously, and beat the villagers, but recently cases have been reported of house-breaking and violation of women. A man from Arjesh came to complain to Samih Pasha that two officers had entered his house and violated his wife, but the Pasha laughed and told him not to come with his complaints if he had nothing further than that to complain of. I have spoken several times to Samih Pasha and the Vali on this subject, and they are always most profuse in their promises to do their utmost to keep the troops from such behaviour, but no result whatever ensues; I have great doubts whether they move at all in the matter. If they do they take no steps to see that their orders are carried out, or to punish those that do wrong; so of course the officers and men see that they can do what they like, and continue in their old ways.

Moreover, the troops are given no money, so that all orders to abstain from forcing the villagers to supply their needs and desires would be a farce even if given.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 45. Political.)

Van, November 23, 1880.

Sir,

TRUSTWORTHY information has been received here which shows that the Kurdish invasion of Persia has now completely collapsed. The Kurds have been severely defeated by the Persian troops, and have dispersed in all directions, leaving only a few hundreds with Sheikh Obeydullah and his son, Abdulkader. Both of these seem to be in rather a precarious position. It was reported here a few days ago that Sheikh Obeydullah had returned to his residence in Shemdina, but later information seems to throw some doubt on this. It is said that the Turks will not permit him to return to their territory for fear of being compromised. He is, however, somewhere near the frontier, and Abdulkader is somewhere among the Ashirets south of the Lake of Urumiah. I have to-day been shown a letter received by the American missionaries here from one of their colleagues in Urumiah, which says that Urumiah was besieged by the Sheikh for a week, during which time continual fighting was going on, before it was relieved by the approach of Persian reinforcements. The insurrection seems to have developed into a religious war between the Sunnites and Shiites, and great atrocities and massacres to have been committed on both sides. I fear, too, that the Christians were not spared.

Reports come from Bashkala that Turkish troops are being rapidly moved up to Gevver to guard the frontier both from Kurds and the pursuing Persians. It is said, however, that many fugitive Kurds have come over the frontier, who have plundered many Christian villages in Gevver, so that the inhabitants have fled to Bashkala; and complaints also come that the Turkish troops are as bad as the Kurds.

On the whole, I do not think that Sheikh Obeydullah is likely to be formidable again for some time to come.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 6.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 46. Political.)

Van, November 27, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of copy of Mr. Goschen's despatch to you, conveying Lord Granville's approval of my proceedings in Hakkiari. I am much gratified that his Lordship should have been pleased to express such approval.

Lord Granville also expresses a wish to receive any further information that can be procured as to the rumoured attempt to form a Kurdish League. I do not think that such a thing as a Kurdish League can be said to exist, if by that is meant a deliberate union of Chiefs and tribes for an object understood and aimed at by all. What has really been going on has been, I think, this. Sheikh Obeydullah, by his reputation for sanctity, by his personal ability, and by the skill and zeal of his agents, succeeded in obtaining a great and wide spread influence over the Kurds. The various Chiefs and tribes were therefore ready to obey his commands whatever they might be, partly on account of this influence he had gained over them, and partly in the hope of plunder.

Thus, while the Sheikh himself had, I believe, very definite aims and plans, the Kurds generally hardly knew in what enterprise they might be engaged; although, no doubt, a considerable excitement has been caused generally among them by the rumours that have been current with regard to special privileges being granted to the Armenians; and it is highly probable that the Sheikh took advantage of this, and pointed out the necessity of a union among the Kurds to protect their own interests.

The Sheikh's idea was, I feel sure, to unite all the Kurds, both in Turkish and

Persian territory, into an independent or semi-independent Principality under himself. Circumstances caused him to turn his attention first to the Persian side, probably being considerably influenced by the not very great success of his partial attempt against the Turkish rule last year, and by the prevailing idea of the Persian weakness. He may also have thought that, in commencing with Persia, he was less likely to offend the European Powers. He, no doubt, hoped to extort from the Persian Government the advance to semi-independency of the authority his son, Abdulkader, already possessed over the Kurdish tribes south of the Lake of Urumiah. If he had succeeded in this I believe he would, after consolidating his power on the Persian side, have turned his attention to obtaining the same concession as regards the Turkish Kurds from the Ottoman Government. There is no doubt that his emissaries have been very busy in all directions, trying to bring over to him, not merely all the Kurdish tribes, but also the Nestorians and Armenians. I have spoken in previous despatches (Nos. 25, Political, and 40, Political, 1880) of his advances to the Nestorians and Armenians; and Samih Pasha told me yesterday that he had obtained possession of letters written by the Sheikh to various Kurdish tribes, calling upon them to join him, and saying that the Turkish Government had promised him arms and ammunition. But the nature of his levies made a check fatal to him. In the first place, many, no doubt, joined him for little more than the prospect of plunder, and when they had enough of that fell away, and his prestige and influence did not suffice to keep together the rest when once his triumphant advance was stopped —for the Kurds are not, in general character, a very courageous and stubborn race, but, though easily roused they are as easily cowed, and, moreover, are unprovided with any of the things necessary to carry on a lengthened and contested campaign.

Therefore I think there is little danger of any important combined movement among the Kurds taking place again for some time, as the only person who could unite them has thus conspicuously failed. But, of course, the various tribes could do an immense amount of harm to the settled and peaceable inhabitants of the country, in the absence of proper measures on the part of Government to ensure tranquillity. Samih Pasha told me also that he had heard that the Sheikh had had a plan for exterminating the Christians, in view of the talk that has been going on about the formation of an Armenian State. But there is a certain Russian "loupeur," named Tchilingiroff, a restless adventurer, who has been acting as a sort of factotum of the Sheikh, and has recently been brought here by the Turkish authorities. This man has been telling the Armenians that they all owe their lives to him; that the Sheikh intended to massacre them, but that he had persuaded him to turn against the Persians instead. The man is a notorious "blagueur," so if Samih Pasha derived his information on this subject from him it is not worth much, and is not very consistent with the efforts the Sheikh has undoubtedly been making to get the Christians to his side. But, no doubt, he would be bitterly hostile to the giving any exceptional privileges to the Armenians unless he also obtained the position he desired.

I have been informed by the Turkish authorities that the Sheikh has returned to Shemdina, his force being entirely dispersed, and that many fugitives have come across the frontier to escape from the Persian troops, who are said to be committing great excesses. The Turkish authorities are giving harbour to these fugitive Kurds, intending, as Samih Pasha has told me, to look upon the Sheikh's expedition as analogous to the continual raids made across to this side of the frontier by Persian tribes, who always obtain protection on their return to Persian territory, though, as the Pasha himself observed, this present enterprise has been on a considerably larger scale. There seems to be no intention to use the opportunity to take steps to ensure their own tranquillity for the future, as might perhaps have been expected. Samih Pasha, however, is to be relieved from his position here, and it is said that the Chief of the Military Council of Erzinjan is to come here at once for a purpose which will be disclosed to him on his arrival. This may possibly indicate some intention with reference to the Sheikh, but it may also be connected with the Armenian question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 6.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 47. Political.)

Van, November 29, 1880.

Sir,

YESTERDAY a paper was presented to me signed by some of the principa inhabitants of Göllu, in the district of Gardjgan, with reference to the affair of the Mudir mentioned in my despatch No. 38, Political, of the 26th October, 1880. In this paper they said that they had petitioned the Government against the appointment as Mudir of a man who was personally obnoxious, but had obtained no satisfaction. Therefore the Government must be responsible for the consequences, as they could not any longer acknowledge his authority as Mudir. The subscribers to the paper were principally Armenians, but among them were one or two Kurds. I declined to receive a document couched in such language, and caused a letter to be written of which I inclose a translation.

I spoke to the Vali on the subject to-day, asking whether he had examined into the matter as he had promised to do when I brought it to his notice previously. He said he had done so; that he could find no real ground for complaint against the Mudir; that he had been chosen by a commission consisting of delegates elected by all the villages, some fifteen in number, in the Commune, and that it was only a party in one village who wished for his removal. I shall make inquiries as to the correctness of this statement.

The most important point in the affair is, however, the evidence it affords of the growing spirit of disaffection and tendency to resist authority when it is deemed to be oppressive or unjust. Moreover, on more than one occasion recently, when I have said to influential Armenians that I hoped they would try and keep their people from rash actions, the answer has been that they would do their best, but that the people were beginning to think it would be better to die than to remain longer in their present condition. Without wishing to lay too much stress on mere words, I think there is evidence of a new temper among the Armenians which may lead to serious results, even if it is not the index of exterior influences working among them. I should not be surprised if the leniency of the Turkish authorities in dealing with Sheikh Obeydullah and the Kurds generally were due to an idea that they might be useful in keeping down the Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 6.

Translation of Letter addressed to the Representatives of the People of Göllu, in Gardjgan.

THE paper which you have written about the affair of the Mudir has been presented to me, but I am sorry to say I cannot receive a document expressed in such language. In it you utter the threat that you will not acknowledge the authority of the Mudir, and that the responsibility for the consequences will rest on the Government. Now, I cannot countenance such defiance of authority. I have tried to obtain the realization of your wishes in this matter, and I have also reported the case to my superiors. I shall continue to exert myself to the best of my ability to obtain for the people of this country their legitimate rights, but it is my duty to discourage sedition and the taking of the law into your own hands. I therefore hope that you will be guided by my advice, which is intended for your own good, and that you will send me a statement of your case in more fitting language, and an assurance that you have no intention of resisting lawful authority. In that case I shall always be ready to give you all the assistance I can.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 7.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received January 14.*)

No. 4.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 4*, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches from Captain Everett, reporting on the events of the past three months in the Vilayet of Erzeroum, and on oppression in the Sandjak of Bayazid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, December 16*, 1880.

A VERY violent storm, accompanied by two slight shocks of earthquake, occurred upon the 8th instant, and burying the country in snow has prevented me from pursuing further the work on which I have been for some time past engaged. I am happy, however, to be able to inform you that I have succeeded in completing as much as is absolutely necessary, and since, in order to do so, I have neglected somewhat my official correspondence, I take this opportunity of giving you a brief summary of the events which have occurred during the last three months, to which I shall add a few words on the state of the country.

In the middle of September, the Vali, receiving an order to make a tour in the provinces, went down to the district of Keghi, and from thence through Terjan and the Dersin to Erzingan and Baiburt. Following the valley of the Tchouruk Fu, his Excellency visited the districts of Ispir and Giskin, and returned on the 11th November by Thortum to Erzeroum. The visit of the Vali to Keghi seems to have made a very bad impression on the Christian inhabitants of that district. Without entering into details, of which the proof is still wanting, the people being apparently afraid to give it me, I may say with tolerable certainty that every encouragement was given to the Beys to recommence their oppressions, and that several petitions presented by Christians were torn up, of which more than one requested justice for murder. In a petition which I have received from the people of Darman (Keghi), they lament bitterly their present condition, which they attribute to the visit of the Vali as well as to the unfortunate result of their attempt during last year to fight their oppressors in the Law Courts.

The want of money makes itself every day more apparent in the barefaced frauds which have been committed during the past autumnal collection of the tithes, both by the officials and the people. In the district of Chanous an attempt was made by the local officials to increase the grass-tax. From the Bayazid Sandjak the usual complaints of excessive taxation have come in. The people, unable to forget the large sums owed them by the Government for supplies furnished during the war, look upon further taxation, until they are paid, as unjust. The Mutessarif does not help matters much, beating and imprisoning freely in his endeavours to extort from the people the little that is left to them. These efforts, made more in his own interest than in that of his country, have created such a bitter feeling among the Christians that, if disturbances should break out in his sandjak, he will have much to answer for. Of the Passin tithe it is very well known that one-third has remained in the hands of the villagers and tithe collectors.

To make up somewhat for this deficiency, the officials at Erzeroum adopted an ingenious system. Some villagers of the Passin reported to me that the tithe, after being measured in the district, was remeasured at Erzeroum, greatly to their disadvantage. They attributed this difference to the employment here of a larger measure. Wishing to examine personally into the matter, I went to the Government granary and measured carefully the measures actually in use, afterwards calculating their contents. I found that out of three new measures, one gave to the Government an advantage of 16½ per cent., while the two others gave about 6 per cent. in favour of the villagers. Possibly the difference was an error of construction, but I could not help thinking that a considerable gain might be effected by collecting the tithe in the large measure and selling it in the small. I immediately wrote to the Acting Governor on the subject, and have since been informed that the Idareh Medjliss had decided that the

villagers were not to be charged in future for the apparent deficit, but as the tithe was mostly collected by the time the Council had come to this decision, I fear the people did not benefit much thereby.

In the beginning of last month I visited the prisons. Some of the prisoners appeared to be very hungry, and I have reason to think they do not get their rations as regularly as they should. One or two were evidently very ill, and were entirely neglected by the medical authorities. The dilatoriness of the Tribunals was most manifest, and on all sides complaints were made to me by prisoners that they were ignorant whether their trials were finished. The system of turning all the prisoners out together into the prison courtyard, without any occupation, is much to be deprecated. They numbered about 400, and, it struck me, might be well and usefully employed in mending the dilapidated roads or in constructing new ones.

The organization of the nahiés is still being proceeded with, and the absurdity of the scheme is becoming each day more evident. The district of the Passin has been divided into seventeen communes. Of the seventeen Mudirs, one only can read or write Turkish; two or three of the Armenian assistants can read and write in their own language, and the remainder are totally illiterate. Great efforts have been made by the Turkish officials to incorporate the Armenian villages among Turkish communes, but, I take it, the game is hardly worth the candle; and the Armenian authorities, having been quick enough to perceive this, have not taken the trouble to contest the matter. I hope to be able to give you shortly further information on this subject.

The concentration, during the autumn, of all the available troops in the neighbourhood of Van, has denuded the vilayet of soldiers. A few artillerymen alone remain here, for the service of the guards. The news that some of the battalions are on the way back would seem to infer that tranquillity has been restored in Persia, and the inference is strengthened by a telegram from a British merchant at Tabreez, requesting his agent here to forward on his merchandise.

A Guardian of Forests has lately arrived here. With reference to the question of the future supply of wood, to which I alluded in my despatch No. 21, Political, I have proved, to my entire satisfaction, that permission is given at present by the Russian authorities to Ottoman subjects to take wood from the Soghanli Dagh to any extent, on payment of the tax, and I am equally certain that not a stick is taken from there, either for fuel or for building purposes. I pointed out to the new Guardian how recklessly the people were exhausting the last resource to the eastward, when they might avail themselves of a permissson which certainly will not last for ever.

It is with some regret that I have to inform you that M. Obermüller, the Russian Consul-General, has received orders to hold himself in readiness to leave Erzeroum. His successor, so far as I know, is not yet named.

The news from the famine districts is not very encouraging, but I do not believe there is any very great scarcity of grain. What there is seems to remain in the hands of the rich, and the poor, who have sold everything and have no money, have had great difficulty in procuring seed. The lateness of the season has been most favourable to our operations, and we have succeeded in sowing some 150 sonars of wheat in Alashgert. In about ten days' time our men will have returned, when I will forward you a Report upon the work done during the autumn.

A comparison of the present state of the country with what it was this time last year teaches us that we are approaching a very critical period in its history. If, a year ago, there was little security for life and property, now there is still less; if there was poverty, it is greater; if there was injustice, so there is at present; while the crimes of oppression and corruption have increased proportionately with the impoverished state of the Empire. True it is, the scourge of famine has been partially removed by an excellent harvest, coupled with the generosity of some charitable people in England, America, and Constantinople; but the danger still exists, and, in addition, we watch, with some anxiety, the sullen temper of a people whose patience has been well-nigh exhausted, and who, rather than remain in their present degraded condition, will willingly surrender themselves to any scheme, however wild, which may offer the faintest chance of liberation from the intolerable rule of their present masters.

For the state of feeling existing at this moment in the country the Local Government is greatly to blame. It is probable that, if kindness and consideration had been shown to the Christians, they would have waited patiently till the Porte might be in a condition to introduce such beneficial measures as are necessary for their ultimate welfare. But good-will on the part of the authorities has been altogether wanting, and, in place of it, an attempt has been made to consider their complaints so

contemptible and ridiculous as to be barely deserving of any notice beyond the imposition of extra severity as a punishment for their insolence.

The fruits of this blind policy are already beginning to show themselves. But whatever may be the ultimate result, it is, perhaps, worth noticing that the severity of the winter will enforce tranquillity till about the middle of April 1881, and that, if the Porte could be induced to introduce one or two conciliatory measures in the interim, the popular indignation might be yet appeased, and a little more time be gained to consider how best to proceed in the reformation of this unfortunate country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 25.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, December* 24, 1880.

I HAVE to report to you a sad state of affairs in the Sandjak of Bayazid. My informants are Hoohannes, Bishop of Utchkilisseh, and three men who have been employed by the American missionaries and myself in distributing seed to famine-stricken villages in the above-mentioned sandjak. Of these three men, two are Protestant teachers, whose evidence is very reliable. From their accounts, it would appear that the Christian population are oppressed to a degree beyond anything that has been attempted heretofore.

For the last two months the Mutessarif of the district has been staying at Kara-Kilisseh, a village in the centre of the sandjak, in order to superintend the collection of the taxes. From here he and his men have scoured the country, forcing the miserable people who have been left moneyless to sell all they possess and pay, or be beaten and imprisoned. To quote from a letter of the Bishop: "He commenced collecting the remainder of the taxes by force, beating and imprisoning in order to be successful, and, in fact, treating us as enemies and foreigners." There being no spare accommodation at Kara-Kilisseh, the Mutessarif and his suite have quartered themselves on the inhabitants, greatly to their detriment; the villagers, in fact, affirm that their village is ruined.

On the 20th November the Kaïmakam of Alashgert came to the Armenian village of Khasdour, in that district. Not finding quarters to his liking, he sent for the Mukhtar (Headman) of the village, and beat him and another very severely. An official from Erzeroum, who happened to be there, remonstrated with the Kaïmakam on his conduct, and the villagers reported the matter to the Mutessarif. The Mutessarif sent for the Kaïmakam, who did not answer the summons personally, but it is supposed arranged the matter with his superior in the usual manner; at all events, his presence was not afterwards required. The Kadi from Kara-Kilisseh was then sent over to examine the condition of the complainants. He dismissed the affair, declaring the stripes and bruises were counterfeited with ink. Finally, the official who had interfered with the Kaïmakam in favour of the Christians was imprisoned by the order of the Mutessarif. This is all the action that has been taken in the district. On the 28th November the case was reported to me by petition, others being forwarded at the same time to the Vali and the Armenian Bishop here. On the 4th instant I called on the Vali to represent the grievance, but nothing whatever has been done. My informants having been at Khasdour at the time of the occurrence, I have ample proof of the truth of this case.

In a letter from one of the above-mentioned Protestant teachers, dated from Khasdour, the 22nd November, it is written: "Near Hamad there is a village named Saran, where there are three Christian families. From Saran a little boy and a girl 13 years old had gone to the salt lake near Hamad; on the road they met some Kurds, who, having beaten the boy nearly to death, violated the girl. I saw them myself lying at Hamad in a pitiable state. There is no safety for any one, not even for children." The perpetrators of this crime have not yet been discovered; it is probably questionable whether they have ever been looked for.

There are other cases of beating and imprisonment, both in the Sandjak of Bayazid and in the district of the Passin, which have been reported to me, and which I could report to you, if they were necessary, to prove the cruelty which is being inflicted on the Christian inhabitants at the present time in the districts to the eastward, but I do not think they are necessary; and in place of them I would urge the necessity of some measures being taken to put a stop to this inhumanity.

The conduct of the Vali, of the Mutessarif of Bayazid, and of the Kaïmakams in the districts to the eastward, is quite incomprehensible. By their cruelty to the Christians, and carelessness of their welfare, they have not only kept alive the bitterness which existed between the people and the Government, but have most carefully fostered it. If a powerful military organization existed in this country, one could understand that a policy of repression might successfully stifle the cry of the oppressed; but with a strongly sympathizing population on the other side of the frontier, and with an armed force of considerable strength within a day's march, against which there are not probably 500 men to place in line, it certainly does seem, from a Turkish point of view, the rarest folly to thus drive the Christians to the possible necessity of asking for assistance which is so exceptionally handy.

Since it cannot be conceived that His Majesty the Sultan should desire any further diminution of territory, it is only to be supposed that he is altogether misinformed both of the desperate condition of his Christian subjects and of the unwise and selfish conduct of his officers, who day by day heap on fresh fuel to a fire which it is the first interest of the State to extinguish. The practice of this dangerous policy should be alone sufficient cause for their removal. But there is besides the no less important question of humanity to be considered; and on this score, if for no other reason, the Mutessarif of Bayazid ought to be dismissed, and the Kaïmakam of Toprak Kaleh (Alashgert) severely reprimanded. The Vali, though not directly implicated in this oppression, is, in my opinion, equally culpable, on account of the tacit approval of it expressed by his apathetic conduct.

I forward you a copy of a letter I have addressed to the Vali on the subject, not that I think there is the slightest chance of his taking any notice of the remonstrance, but I should not have done my duty if I had failed to send it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 7.

Captain Everett to Mustafa Pasha.

(Translation.)
Excellency, *Erzeroum, December* 24, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, from very reliable information which I have received from the Sandjak of Bayazid, your Mutessarif appears to have been oppressing the Christian inhabitants in a most inhuman manner.

This oppression has consisted chiefly in beating and imprisoning the people who cannot pay their arrears of taxes, and in forcing them to sell the little that remains to them in order to satisfy his inexorable demands and escape from punishment. Considering how much these people have suffered, firstly, during the war, and secondly, during the famine, and, on the other hand, how much they are still owed by the Government for supplies furnished during the war, this conduct on the part of the Mutessarif is doubly disgraceful, and I am convinced that if His Majesty the Sultan were made fully aware of it, he would be the first to reprimand him most severely. Moreover, this behaviour is not only brutal and unmanly, but it is also dangerous to the interests of the country. For this reason alone it is most reprehensible.

Believing that such conduct is likely to produce consequences which may ultimately cause serious embarrassment to the Government of His Majesty the Sultan, I take an early opportunity of most respectfully calling your serious attention to it, and I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 8.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 14.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 4, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, with reference to my despatch No. 694 of the 27th ultimo, copy of a despatch from Mr. Richards on the subject of the Armenian riot at Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Mr. Richards to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 3.)

Sivas, December 10, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency a few remarks touching the sequel of the Armenian riot, of which I have given your Excellency the details in my two previous despatches.

Glynossian Effendi is still in prison. I hear he is perfectly ready and willing to be examined by the Juge d'Instruction, but this chance of exculpating himself and of regaining the position he occupied previous to his refusal to submit to an examination has not been granted him. I have every reason to believe, both from personal observation and from information received from various quarters, that every effort will be made to prove him guilty of having organized the riot, and incited its perpetrators, by personal exhortation, to further outrage. He has unfortunately, through no fault of his own, incurred the hostility of some of the most influential Moslems in Sivas, notably that of Mehmet Ali Effendi, whose name is probably not unfamiliar to your Excellency from previous despatches on the subject by the Consul-General and Mr. Chermside, as that of the man whose vast influence, always employed for personal ends, has earned for him public execration throughout the province. This individual having had some petty dispute with Glynossian Effendi two or three years ago, with characteristic malevolence has joyfully seized upon the present opportunity of revenge for a fancied wrong. He has systematically set to work to collect evidence against him, and where the necessary proofs were wanting has not scrupled to employ some of his ill-gotten wealth to bring them into existence by artificial means. Your Excellency is probably aware that perjury is quite an institution in this country. Whether the soil of Sivas is peculiarly genial to this evil growth I cannot say, but it certainly is a very thriving business here, trade being at present unusually brisk. The prosecution on the part of the Government of those concerned in the late riot has opened up a vast field of employment for those who gain a precarious living by these means, and with such a champion and protector as Mehmet Effendi near at hand they have certainly gone greater lengths in this crime than they would otherwise have ventured upon.

Men have been accused of throwing stones during the riot who were not even in Sivas at the time; others too have been sworn to as present who were 1 or 2 miles off; others again, who, if not now in prison, have only just recently been released on bail, were sitting quietly in their own houses during the evening in question. The result is that many respectable artizans and small tradesmen who, on the best of evidence, were in no way implicated in the riot, have been induced by false witnesses, either by way of revenge for some fancied injury received in the past or at the instigation of Mehmet Ali and unscrupulous men of his calibre. In one case, indeed, proof is not wanting to show that this man actually forced one of his subordinates to go and give false witness against Glynossian Effendi, menacing him with ruin in case of non-compliance, a threat which I have no doubt he would have put into execution. The man who was thus compelled to perjure himself has since confessed that he was not a free agent, otherwise, cherishing, as he does, no ill-feeling towards the victim of his slander, he would have shrunk instinctively from such an action.

Although the stone-throwers were mostly boys and some of the lowest rabble in the town, yet those arrested and now in prison are almost without exception respectable artizans and small tradesmen, many of whom, returning from their workshops and stalls, had of necessity to pass by the Vali's house, and very naturally stopped to look on. I have asked Armenians frequently, men of all ranks, to tell me candidly if they knew anybody who had thrown stones, and I have invariably received an answer in the negative, they assuring me that it was too dark to distinguish faces, as indeed the Vali himself on one occasion acknowledged to me. There are now seventeen prisoners awaiting trial on this charge, eleven having been released on bail, making twenty-eight in all. Among the latter is Aubronik Effendi, whom your Excellency may remember as the gentleman between whose account of himself to the Juge d'Instruction and that of a witness there was some slight discrepancy. Slight though it was, he was not released until after fifteen days' imprisonment, and then only on a surety of £T. 50. Several of those now in prison have been there twenty-one days, and among these two men who, I am perfectly convinced, were not present at the time of the riot. In any case, this prolonged detention is illegal. The law assigns five days as the limit of imprisonment for men before trial, except in the case of murder, robbery with violence, and other serious crimes, in which category the employment of abusive

language to and the stoning of the windows of a public functionary, however high a position he may occupy, cannot be ranked. Several attempts have been made to prove that the riot was of such a serious character that the offenders may be proceeded against as guilty of rebellion against established authority. This is the Vali's own view of the matter, to which, in spite of all that has been argued to the contrary, as, for example, the entire absence of any weapons among the rioters, the fact that no one was injured in any way, except, indeed, M. Glynossian, and the spontaneous character of the whole affair, he still clings. This conviction, if it merit the name, is shared by others, the most prominent being the Inspector of Justice and Mehmet Ali.

I have frequently protested against this prolonged detention of several of the prisoners, but unfortunately hitherto with slight success. The Public Prosecutor, whose duty it is to see that no injustice be done in such cases, refuses to act, on the ground that he has been dismissed from his post and only remains here in his private character, and therefore cannot rightly exercise any supervision over the proceedings of the Juge d'Instruction. Consequently, until the arrival of his successor, which may not be, and indeed, owing to the unusual severity of an early winter, will not probably be, before two or three months, nothing will be done, things being allowed to take their course. His successor, I understand, is a great friend of the Vali and of Mehmet Ali, so that, under existing circumstances, his deferred departure from Castamouni may be considered in the light of an advantage, as his presence would only add fuel to the flames. As soon as the dismissal of the Public Prosecutor became generally known, a swarm of accusers sprang up on all sides, charging him with every variety and form of bribe-taking, from the peasant's humble offering of a few pounds' weight of flour to the £T. 400 received from Alishan Bey, the Kurdish Chieftain of Zara, in return for connivance at his release from the Sivas gaol. The time of one Court has of late been wholly taken up with recording actions brought against him by men who have hitherto not ventured on the step; truly an edifying spectacle, and one peculiarly Turkish! However, his influence is still considerable, and I very much doubt whether any Court here will decide against him unless the evidence should prove overwhelming.

The Adlié Mufettishi (Inspector of Justice), who has hitherto adopted a policy of masterly inactivity, has suddenly displayed most unlooked for zeal in the matter of bringing the guilt home to those who are suspected of having been implicated in the riot. His hostility towards Glynossian Effendi is undisguised. In fact, he told me, in the course of an interview I lately had with him, that he (Glynossian) was the worst of them all; that there was no doubt that he had organized the whole affair, countenanced and secretly assisted by the Bishop; and even hinted at his having offered money to the Mustantik (Juge d'Instruction) to obtain his release. I need not assure your Excellency that I ridiculed the whole idea, but at the same time it plainly shows what a cabal has been formed against the unfortunate man, when the chief judicial functionary in the province calumniates him in such a barefaced way. It is very evident that the case is prejudged, and unless the evidence in his favour is incontestable it will go hard with him before a packed Court and against false witnesses.

In conclusion, I will earnestly beg your Excellency to consider the question of Mehmet Ali. There can be no doubt that as long as that man remains in the vilayet it is vain to hope for any amelioration in its state. His influence is as evil as it is widespread, and when thrown into one scale, the cause of justice and right, as invariably represented by the other, at once kicks the beam. I will not weary your Excellency by detailing the various acts of tyranny and rapacity with which his name has always been associated, but will merely state that in five cases out of ten of oppression and injustice that comes to my notice, he is the well-spring and fountain-head. He has been, in time past, in league with all the robbers and murderers in the country side, and if not so now it is only because his assured affluence renders such adventitious assistance no longer necessary. His "men," as they are called, are spread far and wide, and are an object of dread to their neighbours, both Moslem and Christian, for wherever an unusually cruel or oppressive act of injustice has been committed, the probabilities are that he or his agents are in some way connected with it. But this baneful influence is not confined merely to the lower classes. Among his equals in wealth and position and his superiors in every other respect he is almost equally feared, and, except among the select few who share the spoil with him, disliked. In every matter of general interest men are careful to find out what his opinions on the subject are, and when informed scrupulously avoid any appearance of

running counter to them, even though their own private views and interests be entirely opposed to his. On several occasions it has been remarked, both to me and in my presence, that the real Vali is Mehmet Ali, and undoubtedly, as far as real power and influence for good or evil goes, this is true. The present Governor-General is entirely under his thumb; indeed, it is doubtful whether any man holding that position long would be able to cope with him with any chance of a successful issue to the encounter. If energetic, like Abédine Pasha, he might, as Abédine really did, resist his evil influence for a time, but in the end he would probably succumb. If not so strongly constituted morally, he would experience a bitter defeat, as Sureya Pasha, Abédine Pasha's predecessor, did.

As Refugee Commissioner Mehmet Ali has done considerable harm, and many are the loud and bitter complaints against him amongst the villagers whose lands have been seized and given over to a band of reckless Circassians, in spite of the title-deeds in their possession. That the prompt and effectual settlement of the refugees is a great, I may say the greatest, desideratum at present, none will venture to deny for a moment; but where genuine title-deeds exist they ought to be respected, if any importance is to be attached to the law which regulates the tenure of land, and the provisions of which touching this point are of a most stringent character. Complaints from villagers on whose lands refugees have been settled without any attention being paid to the title-deeds in their possession have been very frequent for months past, but owing to the Consulate not having been able to arrange a *modus vivendi* with Mehmet Ali in his capacity of Refugee Commissioner, it has been impossible to render any assistance. I will merely say, in conclusion, that the Armenians here, who are the chief sufferers, are perfectly ready to come forward and prosecute this man, but on condition that the case be not tried in Sivas, where it would be impossible to secure a conviction, be the evidence what it may. The end would be equally well obtained by the appointment of a Special Commission to examine the case, although it is improbable the Porte would sanction that arrangement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. J. RICHARDS.

No. 9.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 14.)

(No. 10.) *Constantinople, January* 5, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kaiserieh reporting on the Sandjak of Jebel-Bereket.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Lieutenant Bennet to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 12. Political.) *Adana, December* 15, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE recently spent a fortnight in the Jebel-Bereket Sandjak, the eastern division of this vilayet. Leaving Adana on the 22nd November, I travelled by way of Missis, Piyas, Scanderoon, Hasso, Islahia, Yarpuz, Bagtche, Osmanieh, Yarzouat, and thence returned. I inclose a sketch map of the route; the maps I have are not accurate.

From Adana the road lies over the fertile and well-cultivated plain to Missis. The vicinity of Adana differs from other portions of Anatolia I have seen, the land being, to a great extent, owned by large land-owners, and farm buildings, instead of villages, are met with. Water is obtained from wells a short distance from the surface; there is none for irrigation purposes.

At Missis the Christians, who are in a slight minority in the village, made great complaints of burglaries and robberies, by which they, and not the Turks, suffered. The extraordinary retentiveness of memory and tendency to exaggeration which these people seem always to possess was very evident in this case; but, making allowances for this, which is easily detected by asking for details, and also from the fact that a robbery occurred during the interval of my two visits, on my return I suggested to

the Vali Vékil to inquire into the state of affairs in the village, which he at once agreed to do.

At Missis there is a fine old stone bridge over the Jeihan, 160 yards long, but three arches out of the nine are broken down, and have been roughly replaced by wood.

Eastwards of Missis is a range of low hills, covered with scrub, running north and south; rounding the northern extremity of this, the track passes for 8 or 9 miles over a plain but little cultivated, when another low range of hills is met which extends to the Gulf of Scanderoon. The road then follows the sea-shore to Piyas.

Piyas, formerly an important seaport, consists now of only eight or ten houses. It is the seat of a Kaïmakam, and there is an old castle, used to accommodate about 150 prisoners from Cyprus and elsewhere, and the remains of a very fine bazaar and khan. Here I was addressed by a Christian from a neighbouring village, who complained that his brother had been imprisoned that morning by the Cadi for refusing to pay a fine of 50 piastres for using an unstamped petition form. I spoke to the Kaïmakam on the subject, and he said the Cadi was wrong, and that he had spoken to him about it. The Cadi had replied that it was no business of his (the Kaïmakam's), whereupon the latter desired to have it in writing for submission to the Mutessarif. I waited a day at Piyas, and visited the Christian village (Chokmerjimen) to which the man belonged, where I heard the old story of oppression and terrorism. They confessed, however, that they were not worse off as regards robberies than their neighbours the Turks, and that they were friendly together. I asked them to prepare a list of robberies, &c., for the last six months, with short details, and expect to hear nothing further on the matter.

On returning, I met the man who had been imprisoned. He stated that he had just been released, and the Cadi had told him it was all a mistake, and that he had had nothing to do with it! I could not learn that this sort of oppression was the rule, and conclude that I arrived at rather an unfortunate time.

My revolver was stolen from the Government offices at Piyas shortly after my arrival—presumably by a zaptieh. The Kaïmakam cried about it, and made a great fuss, but it could not be found. This is the first time I have had anything stolen from me while staying with Turks. Piyas itself is said to be unhealthy, but all the land on the west of the Giaour Dagh, between them and the sea, is well watered, and thickly covered with shrubs where not cultivated. I was surprised to find, at a short distance from Piyas, villages with scattered houses, each with its own bit of garden, fruit and other trees, lanes, endless streams of excellent water, plenty of shade, and consequent healthiness; they did not suffer from heat, and there was no fever nor flies.

From Piyas, the road through the mountains being reported impassable, I went to Scanderoon, and thence over the Beilan Pass by the Aleppo road. Here there was a great amount of traffic, 500 pack animals passing Beilan on an average each day. I met a party of recruits being marched to Scanderoon; the men were tied together by rope, and some were handcuffed. I was informed these precautions were necessary, the recruits being Kurds.

I noticed another large party on the beach at Scanderoon waiting to be shipped; these men were not bound, but were surrounded by a cordon of military at close intervals. At the top of the Beilan Pass a macadamized road over an easy portion has been constructed for about a mile. This is now rapidly being washed away, and has of course never been of any practical value.

The Giaour Dagh is a fine range of mountains, well wooded, and supplying excellent water on both sides. I should say their altitude in places could not be less than 7,000 feet, and there should be many places available as yailas or summer residences.

Descending to the plain on the east side of the mountains, which is marshy in places, and extremely unhealthy in summer, and skirting the mountains for a day, I reached Hassa, also a Kaïmakamlik of the Jebel Sandjak. The inhabitants of this plain are chiefly Turkoman, and the Kurdish tribes Delikhaulu and Jelikhaulu, and are rather troublesome. They wander a good deal in summer to the north in the Elbostan, Gyuksun, and the Kaisarieh direction, and the Government seems powerless to prevent it, nor am I sure that this would be just; unless suitable accommodation for their herds, horses, &c., could be found nearer, it is impossible for them to exist on the plain. The houses are very poor, and many of them live in tents, even during the winter (Ashurets).

Very little of the plain seems to be cultivated, the people being chiefly stock raisers; a good deal of rice is grown, but not enough corn for their own support.

In the vicinity of Hassa there are several miles of oak forest on the plain in rocky

soil, the trees wide apart, and of stunted growth; but there is sufficient timber to make it valuable were there any demand or possibility of transport. Hassa is a wretched village.

Islahia, six hours from Hassa, and similarly situated, is another Kaïmakamlik, from thence through the mountains by a very hilly bridle path in six hours. Yarpuz, the seat of the Mutessarif, is reached. As far as position goes, this village occupies a central one; it consists merely of a few scattered houses, and the rather pretentious looking Government buildings which have been erected at a cost of from £ T. 3,000 to £ T. 4,000, and are still far from finished. There is an idea that if a good road can be made from the western plain, from Osmanieh to Yarpuz, the place would increase very much, by people living at Yarpuz, and going to the plains to cultivate; at present it is rather a surprise to find the centre of Government of a large district, with a population between 50,000 and 60,000, in the heart of the mountains, nearly 3,500 feet above the sea, with no telegraphic communication, and only a few wretched houses about, and, I should think, almost inaccessible in winter.

The inhabitants of the district have at times given the Government much trouble, and although cattle stealing is very far from having disappeared, still the country generally is quieter than it has been in the past; the Mutessarif seems to be popular, and to have done something during his short tenure of office (four months) to lessen robberies; he is well acquainted with the people and country.

Bagtche, another Kaïmakamlik seven hours from Yarpuz through the mountains, is situated at the junction of the main road from Adana to Marash and Aintab; sometimes in winter the Marash road is closed by snow, and all traffic passes over the lower pass on the Aintab road. I was unable to visit these passes, but from a cursory inspection of the Giaour Dagh it struck me that a railway might possibly penetrate beyond Bagtche from the west, either from Ayas Bay or Mersina, without tunnelling, and that a tunnel above Bagtche, on the Aintab road of 3 or 4 miles, would probably be sufficient to pass to the eastern plain. The valley westwards from Bagtche is broad and level for 6 or 7 miles; the hills then approach and the track leaves the river, so that I am unable to say what difficulties are to be met with between A and B (*vide* plan), but I fear the gradient is steep. The Giaour Dagh offers a great obstacle to any railway scheme to the east from this part of Anatolia, and it was through hearing the project of tunnelling the mountains at Scanderoon, where the tunnel would have to be 10 miles or so in length, seriously talked of, that made me think of this alternative route. I think Ayas Bay from all I hear must be the starting point for any line of railway hereabouts, neither Scanderoon nor Mersina being other than open roadsteads, though the former is certainly sheltered except from south-west. Leaving Bagtche, in four hours the track emerges on to the western plain, which extends almost without break to Adana and Mersina, being bounded on the north by the Taurus Mountains. Like the eastern one this is very unhealthy in summer; excellent water in large quantities flows from the Giaour Dagh at first until Osmanieh is reached, and rice is cultivated, but gradually the water supply ceases or joins the main river, which flows sluggishly in a deep channel only rising when the snows melt in spring, so that there is very little irrigation, and the crops are dependent on the winter rains and excellent soil.

In the neighbourhood of Osmanieh, the fifth and last Kaïmakamlik of this sandjak, the people are Turks, Tadjerlu, and Djerids; they live in reed or rush wigwams rather than houses, roughly thatched, and affording, as one would suppose, hardly any protection in winter; they are the crudest dwelling places imaginable, and it is painful to notice relics of former stone or mud houses in the very villages where they now prefer to use reeds.

This must simply be due to laziness, as skilled labour is not necessary to build even stone houses in these parts, and it may be taken as one of the many instances of deterioration we find in this country. The Djerids and Tadjerlu are unpopular with the quieter portion of the community, and robberies are mostly laid to their account.

Eight hours from Osmanieh, right out in the burning plain, treeless and with no water than the muddy Jehan River, which becomes quite hot during the scorching summer on this plain, which is impassable in summer on account of the heat and flies, is the refugee Nahié of Yarzouat. The history of this settlement, as I gathered it, is shortly as follows:—After the Crimean War about 15,000 Naghai (Circassian) families from the Caucasus fled from Russian territory, and the greater portion of them were settled in and around Yarzouat; that was twenty-three years ago: now there are about 3,000 families left, and hardly any children; the rest have died.

Whether this was an experiment or not I know not; the land is rich and produces large crops with the least amount of labour, and this may have induced the refugees to settle there. Those of them who survive are reputed wealthy for this country, where half-a-dozen cows and 5,000 piastres is considered wealth. Experiment or not, it was pretty conclusive, as far as the chance of life or death was concerned, and one would have thought no one would have been allowed to settle there again. But not so.

The Circassian refugees from Roumelia of two years ago, tempted no doubt by the prosperity of the survivors among the Naghais, and influenced by their absurd preference of death to hard work, were induced or decided to settle there; they were to a certain extent assisted by Government, land and oxen being given those who had no money—already more than half are dead. Nor is that all; the refugees, or many of those who went to the Aleppo Vilayet, after knocking about Arabistan for a year or so, and losing half their number (there were 600 of them), shipped from Scanderoon to Mersina last July and turned adrift in this vilayet. During the summer some of them contrived to exist by finding employment in and around Adana; now as winter approaches they find themselves out of employment, and many of them have gone off penniless to this nahié, where they are building themselves huts and are trying to live by doing odd jobs for the Naghais; the latter do what little they can for the new comers, but it is not much; Government seems to have done nothing.

Besides these, there are about 200 houses of Tartars from Plevna who have been there since last February, and for whom also, up to the present, nothing has been done. I was informed that only three families out of the 200 had anything to live on. They said if the Government would only give them land they thought they could contrive to borrow money to provide oxen for ploughing—at a ruinous rate of course, but any start would be better than none. I never heard a word of complaint brought against any of these refugees, and although they were outspoken as regards their position, I heard not one word from them of abuse of the Government. This is only one side of the question I know. I spoke to the Vali Vékil on my return, and he said the Government were doing all they could; that land was being apportioned every day to these people; that they were very particular, and thought they could pick and choose; that there were difficulties, much of the land was owned though not cultivated; the Government could do no more than give land, &c. However, during my interview, he wrote a letter asking for information about the Tartars, and promised that they should all have land given them before it was too late for next year's crops.

Yarzouat itself is a flourishing looking town of 500 houses, with a bazaar and good mosque; indeed, it was much the best looking place I came across in the sandjak. There is even a steam cotton and flour mill. I was much taken with the Naghais, who seem an intelligent people and very orderly; they are fortunate in their Mudir, and their Cadi is a Naghai, and rich enough to be exempt from suspicion of corruption. The houses are nearly all of reed, but mud-lined many of them inside and out, and quite comfortable-looking. With the exception of a few small mulberry trees there is no foliage. When asked why they had never planted trees, they replied the Government had advised them to do so when they first came, but they had "no heart." I do not think that trees would do unless they also kept water running constantly by pumping from the river, and this would be difficult, I am afraid. From the small experience I had of the northern portion of this plain last summer, my only wonder is that any of them survive; they have no medical attendance, and are necessarily much exposed, and get hot water to drink. The place would be deadly under any circumstances, and must be especially fatal to refugees from Roumelia; but the Turkish Government seems to lack humanity.

The population of the Jebel Bereket Sandjak is roughly between 50,000 and 55,000; of these about 1,500 are Christians, the rest Moslems, consisting of Turks, Kurds (Jelikhanlu and Delikhanlu), Djerids, Tadjerlu, Teherkess, Naghai, Tartars, Turkoman, Jinganes, &c., and, considering the different sects, the poverty which exists, the wandering habits of the people, and the small amount of supervision or precaution on the part of the Government, I must say I consider the country to be extraordinarily quiet. With the exception of the complaints from the Christians, I could only learn that there was a certain amount of cattle-lifting going on, and even that was confined to the neighbourhood of the mountains. There seems to be very little danger on the roads, the main road to Marash and Aintab being reported quiet for the last two years. With the exception of the new buildings at Yarpuz, all the Government offices were in the most disgraceful state imaginable; indeed many of them were dangerously rickety. Wherever I went the officials were comparatively new. At Bagtche I was informed there had been twenty Kaïmakams during the last

sixteen years, and as there is usually a Vékil during the interval a new man arrives, the average duration of office would be about six months, nor is this an exceptional instance. Impossibility of getting competent men is given me as the explanation of this by the Vali Vékil. The zaptiehs are now without any uniform whatever, and the effect of a "present arms" from four or five of these people at the entrance to the konak, dressed anyhow, and trying to appear smart, is very fine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 10.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 18.) *Constantinople, January* 7, 1881.

My Lord,

IN forwarding the inclosed despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Konieh, I beg to call your Lordship's particular attention to the deplorable state, both materially and administratively, of the country travelled through by Captain Stewart on his way to Adalia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Captain Stewart to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 25.) *Adalia, December* 23, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I left Konieh on the 6th, and arrived here on the 23rd instant. I followed the araba-road leading through Ilgun, Ak Schehr, and Buldur.

From Ilgun on, many were the complaints I heard about the locusts. In many villages it was stated that the crops had been completely ruined.

At Ilgun the Kaïmakam reported that there were twenty villages in his caza ruined by these insects, and that he required 20,000 Stamboul kilés to feed the people and provide them with seed for the ensuing year.

At Tepékeuy, or Karayeuk, in the Ak Schehr Caza, I was told there was no seed-corn, and that none had been sown; also that the Government was forcing them to pay their taxes, selling their oxen, beds, household utensils, &c. This Caza of Ak Schehr is one of those in which the experiment of assessing the tithes on an average of the last five years has been tried. According to this assessment, Karayeuk is rated at 30,000 piastres, which has to be paid, be the crops good or bad. The houses in this village number from seventy to eighty. It is unfortunate that the experiment was tried this year, as, according to the old system, the crops, if put up to auction, would not probably have fetched anything. The new system is probably, on the whole, an improvement on the old one—easier on the peasantry, and tending to diminish the influence of the Notables.

At Ak Schehr the Kaïmakam reported that he had twelve to thirteen villages quite ruined by locusts, and that he wanted some 10,000 kilés of corn to assist the people. With reference to collecting locusts' eggs, he said the people were so lazy that he could not get them to point out the places where the eggs were. He assured me that the people of Karayeuk had sown. With such conflicting statements, it is difficult to get at the truth; but, from the inquiries I made elsewhere, it is probable that the area under seed has greatly decreased. As for the laziness of the people, it is probable enough. At Ak Schehr the price of a Stamboul kilé of corn was 40 piastres.

At Isakli, in the Broussa Vilayet, the Mudir said that several people had died of hunger, and that, notwithstanding the great impoverishment of the country, Government was constantly calling for money. He further said that he was swamped with havalés and appeals from head-quarters. He wanted 15,000 kilés of corn, for seed and to feed the people. Isakli, formerly a flourishing place, has greatly decreased in size, and, like most other towns here, is more or less in ruins. In its immediate neighbourhood are several large villages, averaging from 300 to 400 houses.

At Karagören, in the Broussa Vilayet, corn was very scarce, and was selling for 80 piastres the Stamboul kilé. Here, again, the inhabitants said they had not sown.

The village consisted of some 120 houses. Owing to the scarcity, twenty families had emigrated to Aïdin, and of these families three had died off. The inhabitants stated they had paid about half their taxes. This village, along with five others and a tribe of Kareketchihi Yurooks, formed one of the newly-made communes. I met the Mudir. He said that he was appointed some two months ago; that he draws no salary, and has been given no instructions as to his duties beyond that of collecting the taxes. His assistant, who is also his Secretary, is the Imaum of the village. Besides these two officials, there is in each village a Moukhtar and an elected member. Both the Mudir, the Imaum, and the people of the village appeared to look upon the whole scheme as somewhat of a joke. They said there were some 130 yoke of oxen in the village, and that, if given seed, they might succeed in sowing during the spring 5 kilés of wheat and 3 kilés of barley per yoke. They also stated that the people were now living on millet ("dara"), of which there were supplies varying in different cases from two to six months. Similar stories were told me in the other villages I passed through.

At Buldur corn was selling at from 48 to 50 piastres the kilé. The Mutessarif said he had orders to sell some 20,000 kilés of Government corn, to force the price down. He was swamped with havalés, and had orders to call together the Redifs of the 3rd Regiment. He appeared to think the Government could not long go on at this rate, and that matters must soon come to a crisis.

Here, at Adalia, I find the state of affairs rather worse than last year. The finances are, of course, going from bad to worse. Nobody is paid; there are constant appeals for money from Stamboul, and endless havalés pouring in. The Mutessarif is the same useless official I have already written about. The Bedayet Reis who has succeeded Jemil Bey is said to be as bad, if not worse, than he was. Orders are neither listened to nor obeyed; there are endless and contemptible intrigues between officials and Notables, and altogether the Government appears not very far removed from the verge of dissolution. Adalia is, however, only typical of the general state of affairs throughout Anatolia. So great is the pressure for money that it would cause me no surprise to see caïmé again issued. Everywhere respect for authority is slackening, and officials treat with contempt the orders of their superiors. Bribery and corruption are daily on the increase, and matters are more or less verging towards anarchy. That the ultimate stage may be soon reached, when, perhaps, there may be some chance of saving the people from their present rulers, is, I am inclined to think, the hope of many even of the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 11.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 26.) *Constantinople, January* 11, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 5 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a further despatch from Mr. Richards relative to the late Armenian riot at Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Mr. Richards to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 4.) *Sivas, December* 27, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency a few remarks supplementary to those I have made in my three previous despatches touching the continuous imprisonment of the Armenians charged with being implicated in the late riot.

Rather more than a week ago the Heyiyet Ittihamiyé (Tribunal of Conviction), a Court exercising functions somewhat similar to those of a Grand Jury, decided, after some little delay, owing to an attempt on the part of the Inspector of Justice to coerce one of its members, a Christian, into subscribing to an expression of opinion in which he did not share, decided, I repeat, that the offence of which the prisoners were guilty,

or rather with which they were charged, belonged to the category known as "djunha," nearly corresponding to our term misdemeanour, though, perhaps, in a somewhat stronger sense.

According to the Criminal Code, persons guilty of this and similar offences may be imprisoned from twenty-four hours to five days, the latter term being the maximum, before they have been tried before the competent Court and sentence passed upon them. In direct violation of this law, which is one of the most important and the most stringent in the Code, there are now in prison men who have been in confinement for forty days, and whose release on bail has been repeatedly refused.

Moreover, now that the Heyiyet Itthamiyé has decided what has been a fact patent to all for the last two months, there can be no possible reason for their protracted confinement, and yet hitherto no steps have been taken to set them free.

Contrary to my expectations, the newly-appointed Public Prosecutor has arrived from Castamouni. It seems that the Vali, anxious to secure without any delay the services of an unscrupulous coadjutor in his schemes of vengeance against the whole Armenian community, telegraphed to his quondam subordinate and zealous friend to come as soon as possible to Sivas, which instructions the latter carried out by travelling night and day with the carrier of the mail-bags.

Shortly after his arrival I called on Ahmed Effendi, and in the course of conversation begged him to set at liberty the men now in gaol on this charge. He assured me that he had no authority to release them until a decision to that effect had been arrived at in the competent Court. This was subsequent to the decision of the Heyiyet Itthamiyé, of which I reminded him. To this he demurred, remarking that this decision was in some trifling particular informal, so that he could not be guided by it. This I subsequently discovered to be false, and, moreover, that at the very time we were conversing the papers containing the decision of the Heyiyet Itthamiyé were in his hands only waiting for his signature, which should authorize the release of the prisoners.

I assured Ahmed Effendi that I was perfectly aware of the provisions of the law in such cases—that they admitted of no question, and that he must know as well as I that he had no right to detain the prisoners any longer. He could give me no satisfactory answer, so our interview ended. It was perfectly clear to me that the man is bound hand and foot to the Vali, whose personal exertions, I understand, obtained for him the much-coveted post he now occupies. He has, indeed, since confessed that he is aware that he is acting illegally, but that he is not prepared to run counter to the express wishes of the Vali—his patron. I would beg your Excellency to consider the deplorably low morality such a confession reveals. The most influential, if not the highest, judicial functionary in the vilayet acts in direct violation of one of the fundamental provisions of the law, giving as his excuse the wishes of the Vali on the subject, although the latter is strictly prohibited from interfering in any way with the Law Courts, or attempting to influence their decisions. Finding it impossible to obtain justice here, I telegraphed to his Excellency the Minister of Justice, stating the case to him, and begging him to put an end to such an abuse of power. I hope I have your Excellency's approval of such a step, which I should not have taken had it been possible to obtain justice from the authorities here.

His Excellency the Vali, I regret to state, becomes more and more determined to punish the innocent as well as the guilty in this affair, in spite of all his assertions to the contrary, and has on one or two occasions lately burst into expressions of the most bitter hatred against the whole Armenian community, expressing his fixed determination to crush them, even if it cost him his dismissal from his post. Such language coming from the highest administrative official in the province, even though he had originally good cause for displeasure, cannot be too strongly reprobated, and has had the most baneful effects, as seen in the conduct of the Public Prosecutor and in the growing sentiments of hostility between the Moslems and Christians, which it fosters and encourages.

Independent though they nominally are, the various judicial functionaries here are thoroughly subservient to the will of the Vali, as is apparent from the course pursued throughout by the Mustantik (Juge d'Instruction), the Inspector of Justice, the late Muddai Oumouni, and now the one recently appointed, not to mention the irregular proceedings instituted in the first instance by the Vali and approved, though against their better judgment, as one of them confessed to me, by the Presidents of the several Courts.

There is a prevailing idea that where the law and the Vali's private interests clash, the former must give way, cost what it may, while the latter are to be promoted

blindly and without thought of the consequences. In proof of this statement, the language of which your Excellency may think hyperbolical, I will mention an incident that occurred during the deliberations of the Heyiyet Itthamiyé.

This Tribunal, as your Excellency is probably aware from the Reports on the administration of justice drawn up by the Consul-General and Lieutenant Chermside, is composed of a President and two members, one Moslem and the other Christian. After some discussion, the President and the Moslem member decided that the offence under consideration came within the provisions of either the 112th or the 114th Article of the Criminal Code. To this decision the Christian member, a certain Tavit Aga, demurred, giving it as his opinion that it was the duty of the Court to determine which Article of the Law suited the case, for that if one did fulfil the necessary requirements, the other did not, and *vice versâ*, adding that he was in favour of the 112th Article. When this difference of opinion was reported to the Inspector of Justice, he summoned the Christian member before him, and asked him what he meant by presuming to interpret the Law to suit his own convenience; that it was not for him to draw nice distinctions between what was and what was not the business of the Court; that it was his place to acquiesce in the decisions of his betters, threatening him with dismissal if he did not comply with instructions. Tavit Aga refused to acknowledge the right of the Inspector of Justice to interfere in such a case, declaring that the opinion he had given was a conscientious one which he was prepared to maintain by arguments if necessary. The latter, however, took refuge in violent invective, hoping by these means to frighten the man into compliance. Failing in this, he asked, as a last resource, if he would not alter his decision "for the Vali's sake," an appeal which had not the desired effect, Tavit Aga objecting that whatever he should do would be for justice's sake, and on no other ground.

I would beg to apologize to your Excellency for troubling you with such details, but my object is to show you what an undeniable influence the Governor-General exercises over the judicial staff. That Tavit Aga was perfectly justified in objecting to such an irrational decision as that arrived at by the President and the Moslem member, your Excellency will understand, when I state that a man guilty of the offence treated of in the 112th Article would be liable to from one week's to six months' imprisonment, whereas an infringement of the 114th Article would entail from six months' to two years' imprisonment; a very considerable difference. As a matter of fact, the 114th Article cannot possibly apply in this case, inasmuch as it treats of the penalty to be paid by any one striking or wounding a public functionary in the exercise of his office. I need not say that the Vali was neither wounded nor struck, and, even if he had been, he had not been so treated while engaged in the exercise of his functions.

I will merely add that the President and Moslem member subsequently came round to the opinion given by Tavit Aga, and passed sentence accordingly. Of the refusal of the Public Prosecutor to authorize the release of the prisoners I have already spoken.

Since my interview with him the Public Prosecutor has shifted the responsibility of the whole matter on to the shoulders of the Criminal Section of the Court of First Instance, the President of which Court will decide to-morrow whether the prisoners are to be released or not. Even if he decide in favour of a release, such decision has to obtain the sanction of the Vali before it can be put into execution, according to an order lately arrived from Constantinople; so that the protracted detention of these unfortunate men, the great majority of whom are innocent of the crime laid to their charge, may be considered a certainty. The trial may take place soon, or in a month or two, according as the authorities determine; while, if the Vali gives it to be understood that it is his wish that it should be deferred as long as possible, I have no doubt he will be obeyed.

Of the twelve witnesses against the twenty-eight men charged either with having thrown stones themselves, or with having aided and abetted those who did, curiously enough three have died suddenly during the last three weeks. This, though merely a coincidence, has been very generally interpreted as a manifestation of Divine wrath against wilful perjury, and has created considerable sensation among all classes of society, both Moslem and Christian. Of the remaining nine, one, a youth of 17, confesses, as I understand, that he was promised 4 liras if he would bear false witness against some Armenians, which he did; but inasmuch as he has not received the bribe, he declares that he will not come forward at the trial. Others are subordinates of the Vali's household, such as his groom, his cook, &c., who, according to Turkish law, are incapacitated, from the very fact of this relation to the plaintiff, from giving

evidence in his favour. So that the number of witnesses will be very considerably diminished when the trial comes on.

That the riot occurred and that stones were thrown are undeniable facts, and yet I believe it will be possible to substantiate the charges against five or six only of the twenty-eight men now charged with the crime. Some account for this fact by asserting that the actual stone-throwing was confined to a small group of men and boys, most of whom are now in prison; while others declare that inasmuch as twelve Turks have come forward as witnesses there must have been at least 100 present mingled with the 400 Armenians (for although some accounts, more especially the Vali's, give 1,000 or 1,500 as the number of the mob, I gather from the most trustworthy sources that it did not exceed 500), which latter argument is plausible enough, and that as likely as not many of the stone-throwers were Moslems. However, as all agree in declaring that it was too dark to distinguish features, it is needless to waste time in vague conjecture as to the component parts of the mob and their respective proportions.

That previous to the riot the Vali was as unpopular with the Moslems as with the Christians I am perfectly convinced, both from what I have heard and what I have seen on more than one occasion; but that there were Moslems among the rioters, as well as Christians, I am not prepared to state, owing to an entire absence of evidence for or against such a conclusion.

Of course I am constantly assailed with stories of how Moslems have openly stated that if the Christians had not stoned the Vali's house they would have done so, but I need not assure your Excellency that I believe such reports to be, if not entirely without foundation, yet grossly exaggerated. It is very natural that the Armenians, now that many of their co-religionists are suffering from very great injustice, should be ready and even eager to circulate rumours tending to exonerate themselves in part, while, from their innate love of exaggeration, the most slender facts assume the grandest proportions.

In conclusion, I will repeat to your Excellency my previously-expressed conviction that if the Vali persist in his present line of conduct with respect to the protracted detention of the Armenian prisoners, the gravest results are possible and even probable.

Public feeling throughout the Armenian community exhibits a daily increasing tone of exasperation. They feel and they say that they never have and they never will obtain justice from the Turks; that they have borne the yoke long enough; that such continuous and unmerited persecution must meet in the end with resistance, and much more to the same purpose. That this excited feeling will find full vent in speech and nothing more, I am sometimes inclined to think, while at others it really seems as if a crisis were at hand; although the remote possibility of such a contingency might be easily averted if the Vali would set an example of impartiality and moderation towards this community. That the Armenians are a long-suffering race is true enough, but that this patience and forbearance have no limits remains to be seen.

If the Vali, in spite of two orders received from Constantinople, one from the Grand Vizier and the other from the Minister of Justice, both insisting on the release of the prisoners, still persist in refusing his sanction to such a step, I would beg your Excellency to use your influence at the Porte to have some real restraint placed on his actions, as at present he is supreme here. I believe that a loophole of escape from submission to orders was left him in one if not in both of the messages from Constantinople, the wording being "The prisoners are to be set free unless their release is likely to be prejudicial to the interests of public safety." The Vali has gladly seized this opportunity for declaring it as his conviction that the prisoners, if released, would act as firebrands of sedition (I hear, his very words) among the rest of the community, and that in the interests of public security he will not sanction their release. I need not say that such an idea is a monstrous absurdity; at the same time, if these men, innocent as well as guilty, are to be kept in prison another month or so, as there is every possibility of their being, before the trial takes place, there is no doubt that by that time there will be a very general feeling of exasperation at such unjust treatment; indeed it would be remarkable were it otherwise.

I sincerely hope that the Vali will recognize before long the folly of the course he is now pursuing, and will draw back before it is too late.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 12.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 28.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 11, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches which I have received from Consul Biliotti respecting the state of affairs in the Vilayet of Trebizond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Enclosure 1 in No. 12.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. St. John.

(No. 60.)
Sir, *Trebizond, December 20, 1880.*

IN continuation of my Report No. 55 of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that the general state of affairs in the vilayet having compelled the Governor-General to return to Trebizond sooner than he expected, he commissioned the Kaïmakam of Kerassond, Tahir Bey, to visit, together with the representative of the Greek Archbishop, the nahiés of that caza.

At the same time he left stringent orders for the trial by the Courts of Justice at Kerassond of the parties against whom there might be grounds of complaint, and, if required, the subsequent transfer to Trebizond of the parties for further investigation of the case or a higher decision.

The Kaïmakam, together with the Archbishop's representative, visited the Nahiés of Aptal and Boulandjak, and caused all the Beys to repair to Kerassond, as you will observe from the inclosed copy of a letter addressed to me from Kerassond on the 13th instant.

Tahir Bey came here, but having been ordered by the Vali to visit at once the remainder of his district, his stay was so short that I had no opportunity of seeing him.

I hear, however, that on the Beys being sent to Kerassond the two Mussulman members of the Court of Justice, who, by blood or otherwise, are related to all of them, departed for Constantinople, and that the Christian member resigned his functions. On the other hand, the oppressed, who in a body complained of the magnates, do not venture to individually come forward and substantiate the charges against them.

The same thing occurred at Ordoo, where the Governor-General had left similar orders.

The Vali in despair has had the idea, in order to compel the sufferers to specify their complaints, to threaten them with punishment as calumniators. But the dread of the Agas and Beys is so great, and the confidence in obtaining justice so small, that I am under the impression that the oppressed will even submit to imprisonment rather than face the unknown consequences of individual action against the magnates.

However, the justice rendered in the case of the zaptiehs at Tripoli encouraged Partchadogloo Halil, whose niece was ravished by relatives of the Mufti of that town, to come and submit his case to the authorities at Trebizond. He was furnished with orders for the Court of Justice for the transmission of the papers connected with the affair, but I understand that on his return to Tripoli he was induced to accept an indemnity of 500 piastres (*4l. 5s. 6d.*) and to allow the matter to drop. The rapt in question was reported in my despatch No. 48 of the 11th October last.

The Cadi of Tripoli, who, as reported in the inclosure in despatch No. 46 of the 4th October last, was accused by the inhabitants of the village of Tchookour to have exacted money from them, resigned his functions, and embarked for Constantinople on their departing for Trebizond to lodge a complaint against him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

P.S.—In conformity with orders from Sirri Pasha, the Kaïmakam of Kerassond, before returning to his post, proceeded to Constantinople to explain verbally to the Porte the state of things in his district.

A. B.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

Letter to Consul Biliotti.

Kerassonde, le 13 Décembre, 1880.

(Extrait.)

J'AI eu l'occasion de passer deux soirées avec notre Caïmacam que se trouvait à Boulandjak. Vous ne sauriez croire combien j'ai été content lorsque ce dernier m'a dit: "Mr. Biliotti avait bien raison de dire que nous ignorions l'état de notre pays, en effet il est déplorable; son rapport," continuait-il, "est si vrai, qu'il est indiscutable; même il y aura à ajouter plusieurs cas révoltants que les Chrétiens n'ont pas osé lui avouer."

Savez-vous comment il s'est pris pour engager les Chrétiens à ne pas lui cacher la vérité? Le lendemain de son arrivée à Boulandjak il a fait sonner la cloche de l'Eglise Grecque où il a réuni tous les Chrétiens. Après les prières d'usage, le Caïmacam a prononcé un discours exhortant au nom de leur religion tous ceux qui avaient été victimes des Beys, ou bien des autorités d'aller directement chez lui pour lui faire leurs dépositions sans aucune crainte; de cette manière il a réussi à mettre au jour bien des choses inconnues jusqu'alors. Tous les Beys que se trouvaient sur le parcours de Kerassonde à Aptal sont ici en arrêt; leur sort dépend d'une décision supérieure à celle du Caïmacam.

Celui-ci est de retour de Boulandjak depuis Samedi dernier; il compte partir pour chez vous ce soir par le bateau Autrichien.

Inclosure 3 in No. 12.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. St. John.

(No. 61.)

Trebizond, December 21, 1880.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to point out in my despatch No. 37, dated Teharchamba, 23rd August last, that the condition of a number of Christians who intended to emigrate was such that the question arose whether it would not be convenient to do away with the prohibition which, without preventing their departure, merely added to their sufferings.

The Porte seems to have arrived at an affirmative conclusion, for a short time since orders were given to the Mutessarif of Samsoon to permit the departure of all Christians that wished to emigrate, but to warn them at the same time that they would not be allowed to return to their native country if they were inclined to do so at some future time.

So far as I know, these orders do not extend to the whole vilayet, but are limited to the Mutessariflik of Samsoon, which comprises the Cazas of Fatza, Uniah, Therné, Teharchamba, and Bafra on the sea-side.

There is no apparent motive for the distinction made between cazas of the same province with regard to emigration.

I have received no information that emigration has increased in consequence of its being permitted; but I have seen letters from some of the Christians who removed to Russia at the beginning of this year, begging that permission should be obtained for them to return to Turkey. They state that they are exempt from many of the evils which they endured here, but that they are subject to other inconveniences no less trying for them. The disadvantages which they met in the country which they considered to be for them the promised land, and the love, natural in all men, of their native country, make them forget past sufferings.

If the Russian Government allow them to depart, which from their letters does not seem probable, their example will deter other Christians from emigrating to Russia.

The Russian Government have applied for, and just obtained from the Porte, permission for 180 Greek families of Gumushané to remove to Kars. In the course of the present year many Gumushané families departed for the same destination. One of my friends, who was coming from Erzeroum, met on the road about 100 of them.

I pointed out at different times that the working of mines at Gumushané would not only prevent emigration, but was likely to induce former emigrants to return to their native country.

This same result would be attained by the adoption of the same measure in other mining districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 4 in No. 12.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. St. John.

(No. 62.)

Trebizond, December 24, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that Yussuf Pasha and Serkis Effendi, of whom I made mention in my despatch No. 50 of the 19th October last, have been appointed Commissioners for Reforms in this Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 5 in No. 12.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. St. John.

(No. 64.)

Trebizond, December 27, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to call attention to the difficulties under which is labouring the Vali of Trebizond in the execution of his duties.

To begin with his subordinates. The Mutessarif of Samsoon acts almost independently, and his conduct, if not encouraged, is tolerated by the Porte, from which he receives answers to the direct reports he addresses to it, without either being communicated to the Governor-General.

The consequence is that the latter gives instructions which sometimes clash with those that the Mutessarif has received from Constantinople; that when asked for explanations in some particular case, he answers to have given them to the Porte, when he condescends to reply; and that he even refuses categorically to comply with the requests of his immediate superior.

The Governor-General refers to the Porte all these occurrences, which add to the complications of the present Administration, but things are allowed to continue as before.

The following cases will serve as an illustration:—

I have been told that Sirri Pasha having, some time since, received observations from the Porte as to the continuance of Christian emigration from this province to Russia, called the attention of his subordinates to the subject; and that in answer the Mutessarif of Samsoon, Reshid Pasha, informed him that he had orders from the capital to permit Christians to depart.

I have reported in previous despatches that Reshid Pasha had suspended from his functions Hafooz Ahmed Effendi, the Kaïmakam of Uniah, and that Sirri Pasha was investigating the case. The conduct of Hafooz Ahmed Effendi having proved to be blameless, the Vali requested Reshid Pasha to substantiate the motives which had induced him to suspend from his functions Hafooz Effendi, who since six months was kept without employment or salary. Several of his communications were left without answer, and when ultimately one was obtained from the Mutessarif, it was to the effect that he had given all explanations to the Porte, but that the mere fact that Hafooz Ahmed Effendi had handed a petition to the British Consul of Trebizond was sufficient to cause his dismissal. All that Sirri Pasha could do was to hand to the unfortunate Kaïmakam a letter explaining his case to the Porte.

I cannot say whether the statement attributed to Reshid Pasha is true, the Governor-General not having mentioned to me the fact. But you will observe from my despatch No. 33 of the 14th August last that the particulars contained therein on the subject were given to me by the inhabitants, and not by the Kaïmakam of Uniah.

As I have already reported, Sirri Pasha directed his attention to the construction of roads. Having instructed the Mutessarif of Samsoon to take in hand that of that town, he found plausible pretexts for not complying with that request.

My impression is that Reshid Pasha is actuated by the wish to be in favour at Constantinople in reserving the money which he would have expended in the construction of roads for meeting demands from the capital.

There being a Government engineer remaining idle at Samsoon, Sirri Pasha instructed the Mutessarif to send him to superintend the work at Uniah, which belongs to the same sandjak, but he likewise refused to comply with this request, as well as with that of furnishing tools, of which there is a large store at Samsoon. The Governor-General, therefore, was compelled to secure the services of another engineer, to purchase tools, and to furnish the necessary funds for the other expenses of the road out of the Government chest at Trebizond.

The Mutessarillik of Samsoon should either really depend from the Vali of Trebizond, or be severed from his nominal jurisdiction. Its continuing to remain as it is now is only conducive to complications which are not compensated by the slightest advantage.

Rushdi Pasha, the Mutessarif of Rizeh, who is a native of this province, is also endeavouring to become as independent as possible, the supervision of the Vali restraining his natural propensity to favour his relatives and friends. When the Governor-General must use severity towards them, all sorts of obstacles are thrown in his way by the Mutessarifs, when they happen to be natives, and by all those who have an interest to screen the culprits.

Such was the case in the outrage at Hodoortchoor, which was the subject of a long correspondence with the Embassy in 1878 and 1879.

When, after the greatest difficulties, the Vali succeeds to have the guilty parties arrested, all means are resorted to in order to obtain their release or escape from prison. That happened with the prisoners concerned in the above-mentioned outrage, and also with two relatives of the Tchordanogloos, who, a few months back, were in custody on an inculpation of murder.

Now that two individuals of the same family have been apprehended by the Vali, Rushdi Pasha strives to induce the Porte to believe that while he is apprehending criminals the Governor-General allows them to escape. However, it is of public notoriety here that the escape of the two relatives of the Tchordanogloos was due to the connivance of the Judicial Courts of Trebizond, and that the Vali's efforts to have them recaptured proved useless.

In vain does Sirri Pasha represent things under their true light. No heed is given to his reports, but a simple telegram from the Mutessarif elicits observations to him on the part of the Porte.

At Gumushané the situation, without being so bad, was far from satisfactory, when, as already reported, Sirri Pasha lately obtained the removal of the Mutessarif. He left his post without waiting for the arrival of his successor, at a time when the Government Accountant was absent on leave, and, accompanied by the Government Secretary, who being himself, like the Mutessarif, a native of this province, had in view to defy the authority of the Vali.

The Secretary, having left his post without leave, was ordered to return at once to Gumushané, and on his refusing to do so was suspended from his functions by Sirri Pasha, against whom complaints were made on that account.

The same spirit prevails down to the native officials of the lowest rank.

There are families that monopolize Government employments at Trebizond; the same thing happens in the districts. These families are connected to each other by blood or interest, but even when they are not, there is a kind of solidarity between native officials, who, whatever the personal spites between them may be, unite to fight the power of the Vali, whom they consider to be an intruder.

In the town of Trebizond the following posts are held by relatives of the same family, that to which belong the Government Secretary of Gumushané and the Mutessarif of Rizeh:—

1. Mufti (just dead).
2. Superintendent of Tithe Department.
3. Commissioner for Emigrants.
4. Member of Commission for Emigrants.
5. Member of Idaré Medjliss.
6. Member of Judicial Civil Court of Appeal.
7. Member of Judicial Criminal Court of Appeal.
8. Member of Judicial Civil Court of First Instance.
9. Member of Judicial Criminal Court of First Instance.

10. Member of Commercial Court.
11. Member of Municipality.
12. Passport Officer ("Teskéré Memoori").
13. Clerk to Public Prosecutor.
14. Clerk to Government Secretary.
15. Clerk to Government Accountant.

There is no branch of the service in which the family in question is not represented by one of its members. This is not a singular case, it is the same all over the vilayet.

It is easy to comprehend that with the influence that all these officials, severally or collectively, can command in the capital of the province, and with the support which they give to or receive from their relatives or friends in the districts, the power of the Vali is more nominal than real.

The paramount influence of the native element extends over officials not belonging to this province, and, with rare exceptions, the Vali, far from receiving assistance from his subordinates in general, has to continually fight against the intrigues of each and all them.

Not only this, but several natives of this province holding important appointments in the capital, they naturally always enlist their influence in favour of their countrymen, friends, or relatives.

To the foregoing almost insuperable difficulties against which the Vali has to contend, must be added the jealousy and opposition which he encounters on the part of the Courts of Justice, and of which I have spoken in detail in previous Reports.

But to have a complete picture, the position of the Vali in relation to the populations should also be taken into account.

Under the forementioned circumstances, the power for evil of the local magnates, who are more or less related to the Government officials, is unbounded. The populations complain that they oppress, ill-treat, plunder, and murder them with impunity, which is perfectly true. When these facts are brought to the notice of the Porte, they elicit reprimands and orders to the Vali to put a stop to the existing disgraceful state of things, which he is uselessly endeavouring all the while to set to rights.

On the first move he is confronted by the oppressors, who, owing to the dread they exercise in their districts, easily obtain memorials against the Pasha from the very persons on whose behalf he is exerting himself.

These memorials are sent to the capital, and explanations of his conduct asked by the Porte, which seems satisfied for a time; but the oppressors, when they have no friends at Constantinople, send thither one of their relatives, who employs irresistible arguments.

It therefore happens that, when the Pasha is under the impression that he can continue his work for introducing tranquillity, he is stopped by fresh inquiries from the Porte, or from the Ministry of Justice. He again has to go over his explanations and this not once or twice, but a score of times, the affair being each time presented under a different light.

In the meantime, all these proceedings being known, tend to strengthen the influence of magnates in the mind of the public.

When it happens that one of them is apprehended, Christians and Mussulmans having been taught by experience that rich and influential individuals will always have the better of it in a trial, the oppressed do not come forward.

This is unfortunate, for the evil that exists cannot be eradicated; but the populations cannot be taxed to yield to groundless apprehensions; they witness examples wherein the very persons against whom they have to complain attain their aims against the Vali himself. How can poor peasants hope to be more successful?

It is only when a few of the oppressors shall have received condign punishment that the oppressed may venture to bring forward their personal claims, but not before. Now, if the case is submitted to the Courts of Justice, it is dismissed owing to want of "davadjis" (plaintiff); new complaints are made against the Vali, who receives fresh reprimands. He is thus placed in the dilemma that, whatever his conduct may be, fault is found with him for not doing that which shortly after he is reproached with doing.

One way to get over the difficulty of a davadji is that the Public Prosecutor should indict, on behalf of the public in general, the most notorious perpetrators of

acts of oppression and violence; but it is essential for success that the Courts of Justice could be relied upon, which, unluckily, at present is not the case.

In my humble opinion, there is but one measure that may lead to satisfactory results, that is, to grant to the Vali discretionary power to exile, under his personal responsibility, notorious malefactors.

As it is, the post of Governor-General at Trebizond, for an honest functionary, who conscientiously wishes to discharge his duties, is a burden beyond human strength.

Sirri Pasha, who has worked very hard since his appointment here, twenty months ago, will, I expect, soon break down, as broke down before him Ahmed Rassim Pasha and Yussuf Pasha, also two first-rate Valis, and as will break down all those that may succeed him.

If other provinces of the Empire are similarly situated as Trebizond, nowhere can the evil have reached the degree which it has attained here.

This is my excuse for having repeated here some details which were given in previous despatches.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 6 in No. 12.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. St. John.

(No. 65.) *Trebizond, December* 20, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to refer, in my despatches No. 49 of the 15th October last and No. 56 of the 16th ultimo, to a case of torture in the Nahié of Kurtun.

Soon after his arrival here, Apik Effendi, the newly-appointed Public Prosecutor, proceeded to Ardassa and made an inquiry on the subject.

From what I have been able to gather, the following is the result of his investigation:—

A Turk named Herekogloo Kiamil, living in the Mussulman Yaila of Gheuldjoghiz, was murdered, and his corpse discovered buried in the Greek Yaila of Alistra, which is two miles distant from the first, and not far from the village of Sengudenli.

Kiamil, who was known to entertain since two years the intention to carry off the wife of a certain Haralambo, then residing at Alistra, left his home on the 1st September last at midnight, and seems to have been shot dead that same night.

Fotogloo Anastas, *alias* Baboulogloo, aged 20, and Andrea Deliharalambogloo, *alias* Baboulogloo, aged 30, who were night guards at Alistra, were suspected of being the murderers. The former was carried off in broad daylight by a gang of armed Mussulmans, and conveyed to Gheuldjoghiz, where, in spite of the intervention of some elder Mussulmans, he was subjected to shocking torture in order to make him confess his crime. As he persisted in his denials, he was furthermore hanged by the feet and brutally thrashed while in that position.

When, the day after, he was apprehended under suspicion of murder by the authorities of Kurtun, he was unable to move or to speak, and was left four-and-twenty hours lying on his face on the bare floor without giving sign of life. Three days later he was conveyed, seated in a chair, to Ardassa, twelve hours distant, and lodged in prison.

The persons who witnessed his arrival state that his face was livid, and his body so tumefied that he hardly could stand on his legs. The rumour of his death which spread in consequence of his despaired condition on his departure from Kurtun was premature. He recovered, though he was left without the slightest medical attendance or comfort.

Deliharalambogloo, happening to be absent from Alistra when Fotogloo was carried off, escaped torture, but was apprehended and lodged with him in prison.

The local authorities say that he confessed at that time that on the night of the 1st September last Fotogloo, who was alone on watch, called him up and told him that he had killed a man. However, Deliharalambogloo denies having ever made a similar statement, or, if he did, to have made it unconsciously, terror-stricken as he was at the sight of his friend, whose fate he was fearing to share.

Be this as it may, no inquiry took place since the two individuals in question were imprisoned three and a-half months ago; and without the fortuitous circumstance

that brought this case to my knowledge, it is difficult to say whether the Governor-General would ever have had cognizance of it.

On his arrival at Ardassa Apik Effendi immediately sent for witnesses from Kurtun, and on their evidence caused to be apprehended eighteen Mussulmans who seem to be more or less implicated in the outrage.

The questions of bribes paid to the authorities for protection, and of damages inflicted by the Mussulmans on the Greeks in general, do not appear to be quite groundless, though hitherto these charges have not been proved. In presence of the above-mentioned facts, I cannot help submitting the following observations:—

1. The death of Kiamil, if brought home to Fotogloo, would amount to a justifiable homicide, he being, as guard, in duty to defend against night intruders the premises and property confided to him.

2. The torture inflicted on Fotogloo by a number of Mussulmans is a felony.

3. Fotogloo is apprehended, conveyed in a dying state to twelve hours' distance, and lodged in the prison of Ardassa, where he is left unattended and forgotten.

4. His tormentors, far from being apprehended, are not even interrogated.

5. For three and a-half months the administrative and judicial authorities of Kurtun, Ardassa, and Gumushané allow the matter to pass over in silence. However, they have orders, and are presumed to forward to the Central Government at Trebizond a monthly list of all judicial cases.

6. Fotogloo's relatives and friends, the civil and religious Chiefs of the Greek community, do not move or pay the slightest attention to the outrage; though on my return, two months since, from my journey, I communicated the facts that had come to my knowledge to the Greek Archbishop of Gumushané through his colleague here, who was never favoured with an answer.

7. When the Vali hears of the occurrence through me, he orders an immediate inquiry, but owing to the existing jealousy between the administrative and judicial authorities, his action is thwarted by technicalities.

8. Owing to this cause the inquiry which brought to light the forementioned facts is postponed for two months.

These facts strikingly corroborate the contents of my previous Reports. They illustrate the degree of apathy of the populations and of the chiefs of their communities to act on their own behalf, the little reliance that can be placed in the Judicial Courts, the want of protection on the part of the local authorities, and the difficulties of all kinds against which the Vali has to strive.

The outrage on Fotogloo is of so gross a character, and the conduct of all the officials that had cognizance of it so reprehensible, that their punishment might be a salutary example for others.

Kurtun is a nahié situated on the north-west of Gumushané, of which Mutessariflik it forms part. It contains about 2,000 Christians and 10,000 Mussulmans, and is divided into Lower and Upper Kurtun. In the former, the relations between Mussulmans and Greeks are good, but in Upper Kurtun the latter seem to be in an intolerable position.

Apik Effendi did not limit himself during his stay at Ardassa to investigate the case of Fotogloo.

It would seem that on about fifty important cases that were brought to the notice of the Judicial Court within the last nine months, not one has yet been inquired into and much less settled.

He set at liberty four individuals who should have never been apprehended, and were in custody since forty-five days.

The prison of Ardassa being a den even unfit for beasts, he caused the prisoners to be removed to Gumushané, though the gaol in that town is also far from being a fit place for confinement.

At Trebizond itself, though not being what they should be, they are superior in all respects to those in the districts.

A few days ago, availing themselves of the absence of the Alai Bey, who has been dispatched to collect money, and of that of Apik Effendi, under the superintendence of both of whom are placed the prisons, their inmates undermined the wall, and were only waiting for the night to escape, when they were denounced by one of them a pickaxe was found in their possession.

I avail myself of the opportunity to report that the two Presidents of the Trebizond Courts of Justice, of whom I made mention in a previous despatch as not being qualified for their post, have been superseded; the President of the Criminal Court of Appeal by Saddedin Effendi, transferred from Adrianople, and that of the Civil

Court of First Instance by Zia Effendi, the ex-Mektubdji of this province. Yussuf Eghia Effendi has been transferred from Sinope here, as Assistant Public Prosecutor, in the room of Eyub Zadé Ali Effendi, whose dismissal I have already reported.

It would be desirable that the President of the Criminal Court of First Instance should be replaced by a fitter functionary, and that the Istintak-Kiatibi (Examiner) should be as conscientious a man as possible, it being in his power to exculpate or incriminate the accused by perverting certain circumstances or words in the evidence taken down by him.

Apik Effendi, who to the functions of Public Prosecutor cumulates those of Judicial Inspector, being a conscientious functionary disposed to co-operate with the Vali, there is some hope of an amelioration in the state of things in this province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 13.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 33.) *Constantinople, January* 11, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches from Colonel Wilson on the following subjects:—

No. 72. Forwarding tabular statements of population and revenue of Balikisri Sandjak.

No. 73. Unsatisfactory condition of Pergamos Caza.

No. 74. Interview with Midhat Pasha on state of Aidin Vilayet.

No. 77. Armenian Bishop of Sivas' thanks for Lieutenant Chermside's action.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. St. John.

(No. 72.) *Smyrna, December* 22, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, a tabular statement of the male population and revenue of the Balikisri Sandjak of the Khudavendyar (Brusa) Vilayet. Under the heading "Moslems" are included Circassians, Chetni, Takhtaji, and other nomads and semi-nomads. The tithes of Aivalik are paid partly to Brusa and partly to Aïdin, in which vilayet some of the olive-gardens and corn-fields of the town are situated.

The Sandjak of Balikisri is very fertile, but much rich land lies waste and is only used for pasturage. There are large forests of oak and fir on the mountains. North of the Masluk range opium, silk, and cereals are produced, whilst to the south the principal trade is in olive oil and raisins. The Balikisri opium, which used to be much esteemed, is now largely adulterated; the yield this year is said to have been below the average. The value of the cocoons raised has fallen during the last twelve years from £ T. 15,000 to about £ T. 2,000. The olive crop, on the other hand, is the largest that has been seen for the last ten years. The raisins are of inferior quality, and are sent to Smyrna to mix with the better sorts for export. The sandjak is also rich in mineral wealth, but the only mines worked are those for boracide near Sugurluk; the silver mines of Balia were worked by the Romans, and are said to be rich.

The Balikisri Sandjak is divided into seven cazas, of which the following were visited:—

1. Banderma Caza contains the town of Banderma, and the Nahiés of Edinjik, Gönen, and Nanias. It is proposed, under the new system, to divide the caza into twelve nahiés. The Christians, including Greeks, Armenians, Bulgarians, and Russians (Cossacks) form rather less than one-third of the total population; they have preserved their respective languages. The Moslem population is made up of Turks, Circassians of the Ahlasekh, Shabsekh, and Obukh tribes, and many families of nomads and semi-nomads. To these have recently been added Georgian and Laz emigrants, who are not yet permanently settled.

The town of Banderma has a male population of about 8,000, one-third Moslem two-thirds Christians. The town was burned six years ago and rebuilt on the same site; no attempt was made to remove the débris, and the streets wander over heaps of consolidated rubbish. The small harbour is completely shut in from the Sea of Marmora and protected from northerly winds. There are large shipments of boracide and opium to England and France.

The Kaïmakam, Ahmed Javid Bey, a Shabsekh Circassian, is energetic, and keeps the roads perfectly free from robbers; he is, however, said to take bribes to eke out his small salary.

The Cadi has a bad reputation, and so has the Court over which he presides.

The Christians complained that, though they formed a majority of the town population, and all the trade was in their hands, they were represented by only one member on the Beladiyeh Medjliss (Town Council), and that the members had been nominated by the Kaïmakam and not by the people.

The zaptieh force is insufficient for the caza; badly organized, and in arrear of pay.

2. Balikisri contains the town of Balikisri, and the Nahiés of Balia, Ferth, Ivrindi, Keresun, and Kebsut. The Christians—Greeks, Armenians, and Bulgarians—form a little more than one-seventh of the population. The Bulgarians who live in the Balia Nahié have retained their language, but the Greeks and Armenians speak only Turkish. The two last, however, are making great efforts, in their schools, to teach their children Greek and Armenian. Amongst the Moslems are many Circassians and semi-nomads. Frequent robberies are said to occur in the Balia Nahié.

In the town of Balikisri the Christian population is under one-fourth of the whole. The Greeks have good schools for boys and girls; the Armenian schoolroom is dark and dirty, and the same care does not seem to be bestowed on the instruction of the children. The Moslems have a Rushdiyeh school in which most of the time is devoted to caligraphy and to the Arabic and Persian languages so far as they are required in Turkish. There are also many mosque schools in which children are taught to read the Koran, in Arabic, which they do not understand.

The Mutessarif, Raif Effendi, who had only recently arrived, appeared to be an energetic man, anxious to govern the sandjak to the best of his ability; he had already made several improvements in the administration, and was particularly desirous to place the zaptieh force on a proper footing. Raif Effendi was for some years employed in the Lebanon under the late Daud Pasha.

The Cadi, Khalil Effendi, was said by Moslems and Christians to be just and impartial, and there were few complaints with regard to the action of the Courts.

The Assistant Public Prosecutor, Rifaat Effendi, is a young man, a refugee from Roumelia, who, previous to his appointment, had no knowledge of law; he seemed to be wanting in firmness of character, and complaints were made in the out-cazas of his inattention to business.

The Binbashi, Major of zaptiehs, Bekhram Effendi, an Obukh Circassian, was spoken well of by every one. The zaptieh force is quite insufficient for the duties it has to perform, and the foot police are wretchedly armed and clothed.

3. Edremid Caza contains the town of Edremid, and the Nahiés of Avoumich and Armoudabad. Under the new system it will be divided into twelve small nahiés. The Christians are all Greeks; they form about one-seventh of the population of the caza, and one-fourth of that of the town of Edremid. There are also between 300 and 400 Hellenic subjects under the protection of a Greek Consular Agent. The Greeks have good schools for boys and girls; the commerce is almost entirely in their hands; and they have considerable influence in the Courts. The Christians complained of the insecure state of the roads, and of ill-treatment by Redifs coming to join their regiments. Amongst the Moslem inhabitants are many families of Turkish ("Kapti") and Armenian ("Posha") Gypsies, besides Chetni and other nomads.

Edremid has a large trade in olive oil, second-class raisins, and timber; the trade is much crippled by the want of good roads to the two ports, which are respectively 4 and 6 miles distant. All transport is in ox-waggons, and the roads are impassable after heavy rains. The ports are open roadsteads. The timber trade suffers much from the heavy taxation, 15 to 30 per cent. on the selling price at Edremid, and 12 per cent on export.

The Kaïmakam had recently been transferred to Aivalik, and his place was temporarily occupied by the Cadi, an old man with little energy. The members of the Courts seemed to be good men, and the Christian members more independent than usual. The duties of Public Prosecutor are performed by the Lieutenant commanding

the zaptiehs, who is not competent to undertake the work. The zaptiehs are very badly armed and clothed.

4. Kemer Caza, which contains forty-two villages, has but a small Greek population, one-twelfth of the whole; it is to be divided into five nahiés. There are many Takhtajis and Chaparlis amongst the nomads. The principal trade is in olive oil and valonia, which are shipped at an open roadstead about 3 miles from the town.

The Kaïmakam, Hassan Khouloussi Effendi, a Smyrniote of Georgian origin, is a good official, but the Cadi, Khalil Vefki, has a very bad reputation.

5. Aivalik Caza, in which out of a male population of 8,915 only 37 are Moslems, has already been noticed in my despatch No. 60 of the 30th November, 1880.

The Kaïmakam, Nazif Effendi, who was Kaïmakam of Larnaka when the administration of Cyprus was transferred to the British Government, and the Cadi, Abeddin Boy, an Albanian, appeared to be liked by the Greeks, and to be capable men. The officer of zaptiehs who performs the duties of Public Prosecutor is unable to read or write.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Tabular Statement of the Male Population and Revenue of the Balikisri Sandjak of the Khudavendyar (Brusa) Vilayet.

Names of Districts.	Male Population.					Revenue.				
	Moslems.	Greeks.	Armenians.	Total.	Customs.	Military Exemption Tax.	Verghi.	Tithes.	Total.
					Piast. P.	Piast. P.	Piast. P.	Piastres.	Piast. P.
Cazahs of Balikisri ..	..	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nahiés and villages of Balikisri ..	940	7	..	947	5,250 00	36,918 16	238,137 26	184,000	464,305 16
Balikisri	122	15	..	137	900,604 20	99,559 08	1,536,340 20	1,519,670	4,055,880 08
Edremid and Nahiés ..	1	11	..	12	241,210 30	55,632 08	1,056,180 30	866,550	2,053,372 28
Aivalik Caza ..	42	5	..	47	8,068 20	247,611 02	426,595 26	18,000	701,175 08
Kemer Edremid ..	151	11	..	162	146,388 10	16,015 00	487,056 10	307,230	1,057,688 00
Bodjaditch and Nahiés	126	25	..	151	297,621 20	5,478 12	801,202 04	710,410	1,818,212 00
Haudegun and Nahiés ..	25	12	..	37	378,202 20	128,170 00	880,345 12	365,020	1,861,449 32
Delik and Nahiés ..	..	..	..	..	89,525 00	374,866 24	680,626 34	212,800	1,357,818 18
Total ..	811	108	..	919	2,167,950 20	964,285 34	6,117,031 02	3,183,154	11,832,922 60

Names of Districts.	Male Population.									
	Negroes.	Gipsies.	Jews.	Foreigners.	Strangers.	Negroes.	Gipsies.	Jews.	Foreigners.	Total.
Cazahs of Balikisri ..	..	22	..	..	3,629	2,488	..	..	..	6,139
Nahiés and villages of Balikisri ..	940	7	..	..	2,382	14,117	..	..	..	17,446
Balikisri	122	15	..	..	1,100	6,617	..	..	..	7,854
Edremid and Nahiés ..	1	11	..	..	..	6,289	..	..	..	6,301
Aivalik Caza ..	42	5	..	..	1,480	8,098	..	..	..	9,625
Kemer Edremid ..	151	11	..	..	615	8,163	..	..	..	8,940
Bodjaditch and Nahiés	126	25	..	..	2,000	7,425	..	221	..	9,797
Haudegun and Nahiés ..	25	12	..	..	100	6,536	117	..	..	6,790
Delik and Nahiés ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	811	108	..	..	10,919	54,932	117	221	1,065	73,113

Inclosure 3 in No. 13.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. St. John.

(No. 73.) *Smyrna, December* 23, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, during a recent visit to Pergamos, I found a lamentable want of security to life and property in that caza. During the few days I remained there the following cases were brought to my notice:—

Whilst I was encamped at Dikely a man was carried off by Albanian brigands from a neighbouring village and held to ransom.

At Pergamos I visited a man who, two days previously, had been robbed and wounded in thirteen places by Circassians. I saw another man whose shoulder had been dislocated, and who had received other injuries, from the manner in which he had been bound by Albanians; and a woman came to me whose face showed only too plainly the treatment she had received from the Albanian shepherds.

Whilst I was at Pergamos the buffaloes of a Greek were impounded in the konak for trespass, and, on his appearing next morning with the proper fine, to claim his animals, he was told that they had been stolen from the Government house.

The Kaïmakam had let the common lands of Pergamos to Albanian shepherds, an arrangement by which the Greeks were prevented from pasturing their sheep and goats.

The complaints of the robbery and oppression of the Kaïmakam and the zaptiehs were universal, but it appears that as the former was, previous to his appointment, a favourite servant of the late Vali's, Hamdi Pasha, a feeling of etiquette prevents his removal.

At an interview with the present Vali, Midhat Pasha, I brought the state of Pergamos and the conduct of the Kaïmakam to the notice of his Highness.

The locusts committed great ravages in the Pergamos Caza last spring and summer, no real attempt having been made to destroy the eggs. The villagers were ordered to bring a certain quantity of eggs to the Government konak, or a money payment in lieu. In one instance I was informed that a man who had collected his proper weight of eggs was beaten and imprisoned for not having brought money instead. Under such circumstances, it is not surprising that the peasants do not take active measures to destroy the locusts.

I am glad to say that the noted brigand, Aiderli Mustafa, who was appointed Chief of the rural police of Ayasmat, has been removed, and summoned to appear at Smyrna.

At Loma, which at the time of my visit last spring was infested by robbers, I found that the most noted brigand, Tatar Oglou, had made his submission to Government. This man, having communicated his intention to submit to the Kaïmakam, through his wife, was informed that he would be received on a certain day. On the day appointed the officer commanding the zaptiehs collected all the musicians in the town and went out to meet Tatar Oglou, who came in with three of his companions, all fully armed. A procession, headed by the band, was formed, and proceeded to the konak, where the Kaïmakam, the Medjliss, and the local Notables were assembled. Every one rose to receive Tatar Oglou and his companions, who deposited their arms at the feet of the Kaïmakam and then took their seats on the divan. After coffee and cigarettes had been served, the arms were restored to the robbers, who took up their residence in the town, thus completing the ceremony of submission.

I understand that very handsome presents were made by Tatar Oglou on the occasion.

In another caza, that of Salikli, a very different state of affairs prevails; for the Kaïmakam, whose energetic government I had occasion to notice last spring, had personally captured a brigand chief and his whole band. His Highness Midhat Pasha told me that he had recommended the Kaïmakam for promotion and a decoration, but I fear energetic action in the provinces is not much appreciated at Stamboul.

At Manisa (Magnesia) I visited the prisons, and found them terribly crowded and dirty. There are about 500 prisoners in all, and in one room, some 35 feet long and 16 feet wide, there were 80 persons. Much sickness prevails, and some of the prisoners had been removed to the hospital, which is, if possible, in a worse condition than the prison.

The lunatic asylum is also in a most horrible state, and the dancing dervish who superintends the establishment is said to treat the lunatics in a very harsh manner.

I am glad to be able to report that at Kirkagatch real efforts have been made to introduce a better system of education in the Moslem schools. The results which have been obtained since I passed through the town in May last are extremely encouraging, and show that Moslem children are by no means deficient in quickness and aptitude for education.

I may add that all officials in the Sarukhan Sandjak have received instructions not to draw any of their pay until further orders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 13.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. St. John.

(No. 74. Confidential.) *Smyrna, December* 23, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that at a recent interview with Midhat Pasha I brought strongly to the notice of his Highness the state of some of the cazas I had visited, and especially that of Pergamos.

His Highness qualified the occurrences to which I referred as trifles; said that they were police affairs; and that, in consequence of the new regulations, which have entirely separated the judicial from the administrative duties, neither he nor the Kaïmakams could interfere. I observed that I considered it the first duty of a Kaïmakam to insure security to life and property in his caza, but his Highness insisted that the blame lay with the officials at Constantinople.

Midhat Pasha complained much of his want of power and of the necessity under which he lay of referring the smallest question to Stamboul; he said also, with some truth, that it was no use catching robbers and brigands, as, after they had been a few days in prison, they were often released by the officers of justice. It is, however, quite possible for a Vali, by a slight excess of authority, to keep notorious criminals in prison pending trial; this course his Highness, who appears to have lost much of his former energy, does not seem prepared to follow.

Midhat Pasha continually referred to the engineering works which he had constructed in Bulgaria and at Bagdad, and condemned in strong terms the policy in favour at Stamboul, which allowed no power of initiative to Governors-General in the provinces.

The impression left upon me by the interview was that Midhat Pasha was making no effort to sustain his former reputation as an energetic Provincial Governor-General, but was rather inclined to allow the affairs of the vilayet to shape their own course.

I may add that Midhat Pasha's name still exerts a strong influence over the minds of his former political associates and of the officials who have served under him. His recent prolonged stay at Tchesmé is supposed to have been for the purpose of discussing the political situation at Stamboul with Sadyk Pasha, the Governor-General of the Islands, who resides at Chios.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 13.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. St. John.

(No. 77.) *Adalia, December* 31, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE much pleasure in forwarding herewith a translation of a letter addressed to me by the Bishop and the Armenian community of Sivas, in which they convey in warm terms their appreciation of Lieutenant Chermside's efforts on their behalf whilst he was in charge of Her Majesty's Consulate at Sivas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 6 in No. 13.

The Bishop and Armenian Community at Sivas to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(Translation.)

Sivas, $\frac{\text{October 27}}{\text{November 8}}$, 1880.

Excellency,

AS Mr. Chermside, who has been acting as your Excellency's representative at this place, is leaving for his new post, Aidin, we take the liberty of transmitting herewith our hearty thanks for the good-will he has shown towards our community and for the great interest that he has taken in its welfare.

We feel it our duty to take this opportunity of informing your Excellency that we feel grateful for the love which he cherishes towards our nation, for his justice-loving nature, and for the great regard he was ever ready to show us.

We have, &c.

(Signed) BEDROS, *Bishop.*
Spiritual Council,
J. POSADJAN, *Chief Secretary.*
A. KORNIDZIAN, *Vice-President.*
National Council,
A. GLYNOSSIAN, *President.*
A. KAPRIDIAN, *Vice-President.*

No. 14.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received January 20.*)

(No. 35.)

Constantinople, January 12, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Captain Everett, reporting the measures taken to alleviate distress in the famine districts of Anatolia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 8. Consular.)

Erzeroum, December 30, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG to inform you that, towards the middle of September, preparations were commenced to buy wheat for sowing in the districts visited by famine. Having received information from Lieutenant Chermside at Sivas, and from others at Baiburt and elsewhere, proving when transport was taken into consideration that no saving would be effected by purchasing either out of the vilayet or to the westward, it was determined to buy in Chanons. By the end of October 180 somars of wheat were collected, and, after some little delay caused by an order forbidding the exportation of wheat from that district, the whole was transported safely on the backs of bullocks supplied by the Kurds to the village of Khasdour in Alashgert, with a Protestant teacher in charge. A second teacher being sent straight down to Alashgert from here, the distribution was shortly afterwards commenced, and would have been completed but for the hostility of the Mutessarif of Bayazid, causing so much delay that the snow fell before the whole could be put in the ground.

In order to insure the seed being sown, and to be able to do more good next year, we ordered our men to take a written promise from each village to return us, if we wish it, the seed, and a quantity equal to one-third of the seed after the harvest of 1881.

These terms were very light compared with those of the Armenian Relief Committee, which, I am given to understand, has exacted the seed and half the product, but they were sufficient for the purpose.

To facilitate matters I wrote an unofficial friendly letter to the officials of the district, with most of whom I am personally acquainted, begging them to assist in this work of charity, by pointing out those villages which most required seed and by helping in the examination.

The Mutessarif of the sandjak being then at Karakilissa, as notified to you in my despatch No. 25, Political, the teachers went straight to him and presented my letter. One Mutessarif spoke to them in a most uncivil and discourteous manner, asked them for their authority, would have nothing whatever to say to my letter, and forbade any distribution. This being the second occasion during the present year when assistance has been given to the poor in that district, I had not thought of obtaining a buryultu for the men, merely providing them with an escort; but on hearing of the difficulties I asked the Vali for a buryultu, which was sent down immediately. The Mutessarif, however, still refused to give permission to distribute, on the ground that in the buryultu the words "free distribution" occurred, and he maintained that as we were taking receipts from the villagers our distribution was not free. The season being late, however, the men went on with the work and finished it, but they were compelled to confine their attention to Alashgert.

From what they tell me, the Mutessarif did everything in his power to hinder the completion of the work by endeavouring to frighten the villagers into believing that we had some hidden design in taking receipts from them, and this too not without effect, for the men affirm that it happened more than once that a man came for wheat and then drew back at the last moment. It seems that the Mutessarif and, from what I can learn, the Vali also cannot divest themselves of the unfortunate idea that our charity is prompted by political motives. I have not made any complaint to the Vali of the discourteous conduct of this officer, for fear that he might declare to the Porte that the grave charges which I brought against him last week (reported to you in my despatch No. 25, Political) were preferred through personal chagrin.

The general state of the district of Alashgert, and I fear also of Diadin and Bayazid, is far from satisfactory. From what the Protestant teachers have told me, and from what the Bishop of Utchkilisseh has written, there is every likelihood of great distress later on. Very many people have no money, and worse still nothing more to sell, having parted with everything they could spare to obtain food last spring. Many others who had a few things left have been obliged to sell them to pay their taxes. To meet this distress we have, stationed on the road down, as follows:—

	Somars.	Godes.
At Ichahod	13	13
Todevenu	23	..
Komaisor	26	13½
Yuzveran	27	8
Total	91	8½

This is the result of our speculation last spring (see my despatch No. 16, Political, of the 21st May), and although it has not turned out so well as we expected, it is so far satisfactory that we have turned the £ T. 150 spent in buying and sowing into an amount of grain worth even at present prices more than double that amount. We have also 61 somars and 13 godes in store at Khasdour. The Turkish Commission has 1,200 hotmans of flour at Lower Tahir-Hodja in the Passin and T. £. 100 in cash. The American missionaries have possibly £ T. 200 at their disposal, with which wheat is being slowly bought for spring sowing, and Mr. Cole has lately received 20*l.* left by Mr. Bryce, M.P., at Constantinople, for transmission here. We have also about 510 hotmans of flour and 4 somars of barley in store here. This is the sum total of our resources, and I fear it is very inadequate to the demands that will be made upon us. In short, more money is urgently needed, and it should be sent at once in order that we may buy through the winter, ready for the spring sowing.

I regret that I cannot at present give you any accurate information with regard to the tithe either of the Passin or Alashgert. I have repeatedly asked for the amount, but am assured that the lists are not yet completed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 15.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 65.) *Paris, January 23, 1881.*

My Lord,

THIS morning, in execution of the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 353 of the 12th instant, I spoke to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire of the maladministration of the Turkish officials in the district of Van, and I said to him that Her Majesty's Government would be glad if he would instruct the French Ambassador at Constantinople to join his colleagues in a representation to the Porte on the subject.

I left with his Excellency, for his perusal, with a request that they might be returned, a copy of Captain Clayton's despatch No. 43, Political, of the 16th November last, and the extract from an Armenian petition, which were inclosed in your Lordship's despatch. I gave him, moreover, *Pro-memoriâ*, a paper in the terms of your despatch.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire promised to take the matter into consideration immediately.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 16.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 41.) *Foreign Office, January 26, 1881.*

Sir,

CAPTAIN CLAYTON in his despatch No. 47 of the 29th November, inclosed in your despatch No. 3 of the 4th instant, transmits copy of a letter which he addressed to the inhabitants of Van, in regard to the tone in which they had couched their complaint against the Mudir lately appointed by the Turkish Government. I have to request you to express to Captain Clayton my approval of his proceedings in regard to this affair.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 17.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 28.)

(No. 19.) *Constantinople, January 18, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Beyrout relative to the state of affairs in Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 17.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Mr. St. John.

(No. 1.) *Beyrout, January 3, 1881.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that Hamdi Pasha, the Vali of Syria, arrived here from Damascus on the 20th ultimo, and intends to spend the winter months in this place.

On the 23rd ultimo his Highness was invested, by M. Brüning, the German Consul, with the Order of the Grand Cordon of the Crown of Prussia, which has been conferred on him by the Emperor of Germany for the assistance which he rendered to certain German scientific men who had been sent to make excavations in the ruins of Pergamos whilst his Highness was Governor-General of Smyrna.

The state of affairs in Syria continues on the whole satisfactory, although a certain amount of discontent manifests itself amongst a class of persons connected probably with some secret society.

A few days ago placards of a revolutionary nature, similar to what had been published in the spring of last year, appeared at Sidon, and on the 31st ultimo, during the night, two were posted up in the streets of Beyrout. At Sidon a little apprehension, especially amongst the Christians, was created, and a few persons, supposed to be implicated, have been arrested by the authorities and imprisoned at Beyrout, but in the latter place no effect whatever has been produced, and these placards are looked upon as the result of the discontent with the existing Government that prevails amongst a small minority.

Beyond the appearance of these revolutionary placards, there is nothing that I am aware of which evinces any tendency to disturb the public tranquillity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 18.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 28.)

(No. 50.) *Constantinople, January 18, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Consul Biliotti relative to the rumoured Armenian emigration from Artwin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. St. John.

(No. 66.) *Trebizond, December 30, 1880.*

Sir,

I REPORTED in my despatches No. 23 of the 15th June and No. 41 of the 8th September last, that there were rumours of emigration among the Roman Catholic Armenians of Artwin.

It is difficult to guess whether the intention expressed was real, or whether it was circulated in order to make capital out of it; but the fact is, that the Russian authorities so far believed in it that Prince Melikoff, a Georgian, was commissioned to make inquiries into the motives which induced them to entertain the idea of departing from their native country.

The following points, which the Armenians adduced in explanation to their intention, were granted to them by the Prince:—

1. Exemption from octroi duty.
2. Exemption from property tax for a determined period, to be fixed hereafter.
3. Exemption from duty on manufacture of cotton and linen stuffs.
4. Exemption from duty on the manufacture of soap and spirits.
5. No soldiers to be quartered in the town.
6. A military force to be stationed on the frontier for protection.
7. Armenians to be eligible as police officers.
8. To be exempt from military service.
9. Artwin to be put in communication with the Batoum-Ardahan road, by a branch road.
10. To be joined to Morghul and Bortchu, by completing the road begun by the Turks in that direction.

They asked, in addition, that Artwin should be a free town, and, consequently, that goods transited from Batoum should pay no dues. The decision on this point was reserved for the Governor-General of the Caucasus.

The Armenians contend that if they were compelled to pay the present customs dues of 30 per cent. on cotton the exemption granted on manufactures would be purely nominal, as it would be impossible for them to cope with Turkish fabrics.

The idea still prevails that unless the last point, which is considered to be the most important of all, is not granted, the Armenians of Artwin will emigrate to Turkey.

However, the Roman Catholic Armenian Bishop of Artwin, who does not approve of the exodus, is said to be endeavouring to persuade his co-religionists to remain in their native country.

He lately went to Tiflis and had an audience of the Grand Duke Michel, who treated him most courteously, and appointed him Vicar-General of all the Roman Catholic Armenians in the Caucasus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 19.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 28.)

(No. 51.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 18, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of two despatches from Vice-Consul Jago, reporting on the state of affairs in the Hauran and the arrival of the new French Consul at Damascus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 19.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 20.)
Sir, *Damascus, December* 20, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that M. Flesch, late French Consul at Adrianople, has been promoted to the French Consulate of the first class of Damascus in the place of M. Saint Jaffray, promoted to the Consular Department of the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

M. Flesch has already entered upon his duties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 19.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 21.)
Sir, *Damascus, December* 22, 1880.

IN November 1879 I had the honour to report to your Excellency the termination of the disturbances in the Druze Mountain of the Hauran by the nominal subjection of the Chiefs to the demands of Midhat Pasha, supported by military demonstration, and the ultimate appointment of Saïd Bey Talhuk, a Druze notability of Mount Lebanon, as Kaïmakam, under a régime which promised, if the latter were supported, the inauguration of the substance rather than the shadow of Imperial authority over the mountain.

I now beg to report that, owing to the intrigues of certain of the Chiefs, the passive resistance to authority of a portion of the population, and inability to settle unaided the numerous and conflicting claims between Druzes and Hauranese for corn and flocks appropriated during the disturbances of October 1879, Saïd Bey's position has lately become untenable.

And, having in vain endeavoured to obtain from the authorities of the vilayet a military force with which to overawe malcontents and assert his authority, he has changed places with Mineer Effendi, Kaïmakam of Rasheya, Mount Hermon, the latter (a Turk) of whom now becomes Kaïmakam of the Jebel Druze Hauran.

The policy of Hamdi Pasha, the Vali, in refusing a military force, is, I believe, dictated by motives of prudence in not wishing, under present circumstances, to add to the embarrassments of the Imperial Government and his own by risking collision between military and Druze, with the necessity, if such did occur, of following it up to the end.

The new Kaïmakam will thus possess and exercise, as did his predecessors before Saïd Bey, a nominal authority over the mountain, the real authority of which will again virtually rest in the Chiefs.

The complete subjection of the mountain to direct Imperial rule attempted by Midhat Pasha in the autumn of 1879 is thus deferred once more to the future.

Said Bey's chief failing is alleged to have been a want of conciliating power, and an inclination to import too suddenly into his Government those details of administration and respect for authority which obtain in Lebanon.

Within the last few days the authorities have put pressure upon both the Druze Chiefs and the Hauranese population to get them to agree to an amicable settlement of their conflicting claims. Whether such settlement will have a permanent effect is, I am afraid, somewhat doubtful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 20.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 31.)

E
(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January* 25, 1881.

I COMMUNICATED to Baron Haymerle the substance of your Lordship's despatch No. 13, with the documents inclosed in it, and asked if he would instruct the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Constantinople to join his colleagues in a representation to the Porte upon the maladministration in Armenia, and the manner in which the Turkish Government are proceeding in the matter of the reforms.

His Excellency tells me that he has directed Baron Calice to communicate with his colleagues, and to call the attention of the Porte to the question in concert with them, but not by collective representation, for which he does not think there is sufficient occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 21.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 54.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 31, 1881.

I APPROVE the measures taken by Captain Everett for the alleviation of the distress in the famine districts of Anatolia, as reported in his despatch of the 30th December last, which was transmitted to me in your despatch No. 35 of the 12th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 22.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 2.)

(No. 46.)
My Lord, *Rome, January* 28, 1881.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 10A of the 12th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note which I addressed to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 24th of this month, respecting Turkish maladministration in Armenia, in the sense of your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Sir A. Paget to Signor Cairoli.

M. le Ministre, *Rome, January* 24, 1881.

I HAVE been instructed by Earl Granville to communicate to your Excellency the accompanying copy of a Confidential despatch from Captain Clayton, British Vice-Consul at Van, with an extract from a petition bearing the signatures of 900

Armenians, describing the maladministration of the Turkish officials in that district, more especially in regard to the mode in which they are carrying out the scheme for the arrangement of the communes, a reform offered by the Porte itself in its note of the 5th July last, and in persisting in nominating the Mudirs, notwithstanding the protest of the Powers against that mode of appointment.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the way in which the Porte is dealing with its offer of reforms would appear to furnish grounds for remonstrance on the part of the Representatives, and they would be glad if the King's Government would instruct their Ambassador at Constantinople to join with his colleagues in a representation on the subject.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 23.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received February 2.)

E
(No. 84.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 1, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 65 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note which I received last evening from M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, and which relates to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a joint representation to the Porte respecting the maladministration of the Turkish officials in Armenia, and particularly in the District of Van.

The note states that the German Government objects to this proposal on the ground that the Armenian question should not be raised until the Greek question is definitively settled; and M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire inquires whether, considering this objection, Her Majesty's Government still consider that the proposed representations would be opportune at this moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 23.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire to Lord Lyons.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Paris, le 29 Janvier, 1881.*

VOUS m'avez fait l'honneur de me remettre le 23 de ce mois une note ayant pour objet d'appeler l'attention du Gouvernement de la République Française sur les nouvelles violences des Kurdes contre les Arméniens, et d'une manière plus générale sur les réformes que la Porte avait promis de faire par sa dépêche du 5 Juillet dernier, et qui sont restées inexécutées.

Vous avez bien voulu me communiquer en même temps à titre confidentiel un document imprimé, qui contient le texte d'une pétition adressée par un grand nombre d'Arméniens au Vice-Consul de la Reine à Van. Suivant le désir que vous m'avez exprimé je vous renvoie ci-joint ce document.

En présence des faits qui lui sont signalés le Gouvernement de la Reine croit qu'il y aurait lieu d'adresser des remontrances à la Porte Ottomane, et vous me demandez si le Gouvernement Français serait disposé à entrer dans cette voie, d'accord avec les Représentants des Grandes Puissances. J'apprécie l'importance du but que vous nous proposez, et je n'aurai aucune objection à le poursuivre de concert avec les autres Puissances, mais les indications que je reçois de notre Ambassadeur à Berlin me font craindre qu'un accord à cet effet ne s'établisse difficilement entre les Cabinets. M. de St. Vallier me mande que Lord Odo Russell, ayant transmis à la Chancellerie Allemande une suggestion analogue à celle dont votre Excellence a bien voulu m'entretenir, le Prince de Bismarck a exprimé l'opinion qu'il y aurait un sérieux inconvénient à soulever la question Arménienne avant d'avoir définitivement réglé la question Grecque, et qu'on risquerait par-là d'exposer à un échec presque certain les efforts que font en ce moment les Puissances pour apaiser le différend Turco-Hellénique.

Je vous serai obligé de vouloir bien me faire savoir si le Gouvernement de la Reine, malgré les objections élevées par le Gouvernement Allemand persiste à regarder

comme immédiatement opportunes les démarches qu'il nous a recommandées à Constantinople.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) B. ST. HILAIRE.

No. 24.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 70.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 25, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Everett to Major Trotter, containing observations on the nahiés (communes) lately formed in the Caza of Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 1.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, January 7, 1881.*

I BEG to inclose a list of the nahiés lately formed in the Caza of Erzeroum, together with some observations upon them which I have received from a confidential and reliable source. Although these observations only refer to the caza in question, many of them are of so general a character as to be applicable to the whole vilayet, and they appear to me to expose with accuracy some of the feeble points of the scheme as applied to this country.

The author remarks on the want of education among the Mudirs of this district. In my despatch No. 24, Political, of the 16th ultimo I pointed out to you the inability of the Mudirs of the Passin to read or write the official language, and I have no doubt that this ignorance extends to the other cazas. Even, therefore, if the execution of the scheme were faultless; if perfect harmony existed in the communes, and a gendarmerie were organized, it might be questionable whether the country is sufficiently educated to allow of the successful introduction of such a measure.

The execution seems to have been conducted altogether in a wrong spirit. An endeavour has been made to arrange the communes so as to obtain the greatest possible Mussulman influence, thereby giving fresh cause for complaint among the Christians; while, from private information which I have received, I gather that some of the Administrators who have been appointed are men of notoriously bad character. So far as I can learn, the Mudirs have not been appointed for any fixed period, nor, supposing it should become necessary to dismiss a Mudir, has it been laid down with whom the right of dismissal should rest. Their duties, moreover, require a clearer definition; indeed, the only instructions they appear to have received has emanated from the Vali in the form of a general letter, wherein the Mudirs and Communal Council are informed that they are to meet once a-week; that they are entrusted with the security of life and property, and with the seizure of all brigands and robbers, who are to be forwarded to the Kaïmakam of the caza; that they are to conduct the affairs of the Municipality; and, finally, assist the tax-gatherers in the collection of the tithes.

In the present condition of the country I do not believe that any benefits are conferred on the people by this measure, and I am almost certain that it will be the means of increasing oppression. Those who know Turkey will fully agree with the author of these observations, that the unpaid Mudirs will take care to recoup themselves for any expenditure they may incur; indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that their first thought will be how they can make a little money. This money will be extorted from the people who have been thus provided with a new and numerous body of men to prey upon their slender resources.

With reference to the remarks upon the inaccuracy of the numbers shown in the list, I may mention that the Local Government has issued an order forbidding the Armenian authorities to take a new census of their population. According to the latest intelligence I have received from the Sandjak of Bayazid the formation of the nahiés has not been commenced in that district.

It was evident from the first that the introduction of the communal system into a country where the elements are so mixed and so antagonistic would be a matter of extreme difficulty and would require very delicate handling. But for all that, there was in the scheme the means of pleasing the Christian population without giving any offence to the Mahommedans. The Government, however, has not been clever enough to see the advantage that might have been gained at the expense of a few more Armenian communes, and thus the effect of the measure has been only to cause a good deal of grumbling and to increase the bad feeling against the Government, which sooner or later may endanger the peace of the country. It is the first measure that I have seen introduced, and the action of the officials in this instance confirms my conviction that the introduction of any reform will require the careful supervision of Europeans.

In conclusion, I wish to inform you that I asked the Governor-General a few days ago for the list of the nahiés formed in the Erzeroum Caza and the Passin, but they were refused me on the ground that no instructions had been received to give any information on the subject of nahiés to the English Consul. I have not pressed my demands, but I fail to see how I am to acquaint you with the progress of any measures of reform which may be introduced unless I can obtain from the Local Government, from time to time, such information as may be necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

TABLEAU de la Division en Nahiés (Cantons) de la Campagne d'Erzéroum.

No. des Cantons.	Noms des Cantons.	Nombre des Villages.	Total des Familles.	Individus Musulmans.	Individus Arméniens.	Total des Individus.	Le Mudir ou le Chef de Canton.
1	Tirnu Gaban	13	420	2,706	..	2,706	Turc.
2	Aschkaleh	14	603	3,472	530	4,002	,,
3	Djiaïs	9	533	2,920	232	3,152	,,
4	Kotanis	11	343	2,156	..	2,156	,,
5	Megommasour	13	555	3,434	120	3,554	,,
6	Arabkendi	22	362	2,058	..	2,058	,,
7	Kayapa	14	573	2,808	654	3,462	,,
8	Kamrzi	5	430	666	2,722	3,388	Arménien.
9	Ilidja	6	382	828	2,610	3,388	,,
10	Meurdaluk	10	356	1,860	344	2,204	Turc.
11	Haidari	11	316	1,938	76	2,014	,,
12	Keghakhor	9	442	1,360	1,342	2,702	,,
13	Gun	5	557	710	3,508	4,218	Arménien.
14	Tzitogh	6	448	1,078	2,454	3,532	,,
15	Guimgossag	13	384	1,432	780	2,212	Turc.
	Total	161	6,712	29,420	15,272	44,698	

Notes sur la Formation de ces Nahiés.

Le sandjak (département) d'Erzéroum contient actuellement cinq cazas (districts), savoir: Erzéroum, Passin, Khenous, Keghy, et Terdjan. Chaque district a pour son régisseur un Caïmacam (Vice-Gouverneur). Quelques districts à cause de leur étendue ont en outre un ou deux Mudirs (Chefs de Canton) préposés à la tutelle du bon ordre du nahié (canton) sous la dépendance du Caïmacam. Le Caza d'Erzéroum avait deux Mudirs, à Thortoum et à Narman (ou mieux Mamervon). Les Mudirs étaient des vrais employés avec appointement, personnel et force, bien que insuffisante. Le Mudir de Thortoum, avec soixante-trois villages sous sa dépendance, n'avait que six hommes (on ne saurait bien comment les qualifier). Les quinze nahiés sus-mentionnés sont formés dans la campagne d'Erzéroum, partie du Caza d'Erzéroum.

Ce fut l'avant-dernier projet de réformes d'Abédine Pacha (on a eu ensuite celui d'Assim Pacha), qui décréta la formation de ces nahiés pour faciliter l'action de la police et la tutelle du bon ordre. Ces nouveaux nahiés à l'Abédine diffèrent essentiellement des anciens nahiés qu'on avait jusqu'ici à Thortoum et à Narman. Les normes constitutives des nouveaux nahiés sont les suivantes.

Chaque nahié doit contenir de 2,000 à 5,000 âmes des deux sexes, et les villages

y contenus doivent être tout au plus à deux heures de distance du chef-lieu du nahié. Le Chef ("Mudir"), le Sous-Chef ("Mouavin"), et les Conseillers ("Aza") du canton tous doivent être pris parmi les habitants du même canton, à titre gratuit et honoraire. Le Chef doit être pris dans l'élément formant la majorité des habitants du canton; et le Sous-Chef dans l'élément formant la minorité; les Conseillers de quatre à six proportionnellement dans les deux éléments.

Le Décret ordonne la réunion du Conseil Cantonal une fois par semaine, dans le reste les Chefs et les Conseillers sont autorisés à s'occuper de leurs travaux agricoles ou autres comme auparavant. Aucune disposition n'est ajoutée sur la résidence, la secrétarerie, la force, la compétence, &c., de ces nouveaux fonctionnaires.

Les jugements et les observations qu'on pourrait faire sur la nouvelle mesure appliquée à la campagne d'Erzéroum, on pourrait résumer de la manière suivante:—

1. Le minimum et le maximum du nombre des habitants pour chaque canton étant fixés de 2,000 à 5,000 individus, on donne lieu à l'arbitre du moment qu'on a la liberté de créer facilement un canton au lieu de deux, ou deux au lieu d'un; d'après les vues secondaires des autorités. En effet, l'idée tendant évidemment à avoir le moins de fonctionnaires Chrétiens possibles, a fait adopter le minimum pour les nahiés ou le Mudir est Musulman, et le maximum pour les nahiés ou le Mudir devait être Chrétien. (Voir les nahiés 11, 6, 4, 10, 15, &c., pour le premier cas, et les nahiés 13, 14, 8, et 9 pour le second cas.)

2. La règle des facilitations, des communications, des relations, &c., a été méconnue devant la règle matérielle des heures de distance, et on a pu ainsi disperser les villages Chrétiens parmi les villages Musulmans, et au lieu de créer des réformes utiles, on a créé plutôt des nouvelles difficultés; par exemple: le village de Hintzk, d'une centaine de familles Arméniennes, et en relation facile avec la campagne, a été agrégé aux villages de la montagne et soumis à Guimagosag, petit village de montagne de mauvaise réputation et d'une vingtaine de familles Turques seulement, et situé en sens opposé des communications naturelles de Hintzk. Oumoudoum, gros village, majorité Chrétienne, qui est en communication facile et directe avec le Nahié de Keghakhor, a été agrégé à Tzitogh pour éviter la majorité Chrétienne du premier. Ainsi d'Ardzati, de Teonik, et d'autres villages Chrétiens. Les plaintes et les pétitions des populations de ces villages n'ont pas été prises en considération.

3. La statistique exposée dans le Tableau est prise d'une ancienne statistique officielle d'il y a vingt-six ans, formée dans le but de la conscription pour les Musulmans et de l'impôt de l'exemption pour les Chrétiens. La conscription étant un devoir personnel imposé par sortition, et tout Musulman ayant intérêt à mettre au jour le nombre exact de ses contionaux et coreligionnaires, la statistique pour les Musulmans est exacte autant que possible et même successivement corrigée. Mais l'impôt de l'exemption étant payé par les Chrétiens en groupe et proportionnellement à leur nombre entier sur une cotisation faite entre eux et en famille, les Chrétiens ont eu et ont toujours l'intérêt à cacher leur nombre réel pour payer le moins possible d'impôt d'exemption ("bédélati askérié"). Même dans la circonstance actuelle les Arméniens n'ont rien fait pour mettre au jour leur nombre exact, puisque la faveur d'avoir un Mudir Arménien de cet espèce ne valait pas le surcroît d'impôt qu'on allait exiger d'après la nouvelle statistique. Les nombres des individus donnés ci-dessus sont collectifs pour les deux sexes; la statistique officielle est formée pour le sexe masculin seulement; en doublant les chiffres on a cru avoir l'entier de la population.

4. Les charges étant gratuites et honoraires on devait par force (comme on a fait même en effet), prendre pour Chefs, Sous-Chefs, et Conseillers des cantons, les personnes les plus influentes parmi les Turcs, les Aghas, et les Beys des villages. On connaît quelle fléau pour la population sont ces gens-là; aujourd'hui on leur a donné un titre de plus pour pouvoir exercer plus librement leurs vexations. Aucune résidence, aucun frais de représentation ni de fonction n'est alloué aux fonctionnaires cantonaux; les séances même du Conseil doivent avoir lieu dans la maison du Mudir; en cette occasion la nourriture même des Conseillers et de leurs chevaux restera à sa charge. Eh bien! on ne sait comprendre comment ces fonctionnaires puissent payer si cher de leur temps et de leur argent une fonction sans importance. Les Turcs cependant ont été à la chasse de ces fonctions. Il suffit de connaître les manières locales pour savoir comment une fonction sans importance peut produire des gains avec importance. Dès le moment que tout est honoraire, les autorités supérieures n'auront pas les moyens nécessaires pour obliger les fonctionnaires cantonaux aux règles de l'équité. On a entendu dire de la bouche de ces gens-là qu'une menace même d'emprisonnement pourrait produire au Mudir le prix correspondant.

5. Il est vrai qu'on a établi aussi quelques Arméniens, mais ils sont pris parmi les gens de la campagne, sans instruction littéraire de la langue Turque (exclusivement officielle) et sans pratique précédente dans les affaires du Gouvernement, de sorte que même pour lire les ordres des autorités, et pour faire leurs Rapports, &c., ces fonctionnaires Arméniens doivent recourir à leurs collègues Turcs, et les fonctions des Arméniens deviennent nominales, tandis que les Turcs les obtiennent effectivement, et cela quand même les fonctions des Arméniens soient plus hautes que celles des Turcs.

6. On pourrait porter remède à cet inconvénient, si le Décret des Réformes contenait la clause de nommer les Mudirs payés, ou bien d'établir un Secrétaire Cantonal payé sur le Budget local. Les fonctionnaires Arméniens pouvaient alors avoir une personne de leur confiance pour les affaires du canton. La mesure actuelle laisse six ou huit villageois à leurs propres ressources intellectuelles, et leur confie la sécurité, l'administration, et le progrès de la population.

7. Aucune disposition n'ordonne encore l'installation d'un nombre donné de gendarmes à cheval ou à pied dans chaque nahié. Comment peut-on donc avoir une autorité sans la force opportune? Comment faire les relations avec le centre? Comment communiquer les ordres? Comment prendre des mesures de sécurité? Comment réprimer les événements fâcheux? Comment représenter l'honneur et le prestige de l'autorité? Un trône sans mains et sans pieds. Telle est actuellement la mesure Abédinienne de réforme, de la formation des nahiés.

8. Par le fait de la création des nouveaux nahiés à base de fonction gratuite, est cessée l'institution des anciens nahiés avec Chef payé, Secrétaire, et quelques gendarmes. Si les villages près des centres des cazas, sandjaks, et vilayets n'ont rien gagné par la nouvelle mesure, les villages éloignés des centres ont perdu même quelque chose en perdant les anciens Mudirs avec leur suite.

9. D'après la statisque officielle le nombre des Arméniens sur le total de la population de la campagne d'Erzéroum est de 3½ pour cent. En tenant compte de la diminution par causes volontaires (voir ci-dessus, § 3), on pourrait y ajouter quelque autre chiffre. Les trois villages ci-après pris au hasard peuvent donner une idée de cette différence:—

	D'après la Statistique Officielle.	D'après les Informations Particulières.
	Arméniens.	Arméniens.
Kayapa. (Nahié 7)	60	118
Zergunisd. (Nahié 12)	38	61
Tevnik. (Nahié 6)	390	506
Total	488	685

Il y a une augmentation de 28 pour cent; cependant nous voulons admettre que cette augmentation n'est pas toujours constante, et il suffit d'ajouter seulement la moitié, c'est-à-dire le 14 pour cent sur la proportion de la statistique officielle.

10. Il faut noter aussi la différence entre les villages des Musulmans et des Arméniens. Tandis que les Arméniens sont groupés en gros centres, les Musulmans se trouvent dispersés d'une manière incroyable. Les nahiés à majorité Arménienne sont composés de cinq ou six villages seulement, avec le double des habitants des nahiés à majorité Musulmane, qui sont formés de dix ou quatorze villages; il y en a même un formé de vingt-deux villages. Les gros centres étant l'indice évident d'un plus haut degré de vie sociale, de culture, et de civilisation relative, on est en droit de conclure pour le grade plus élevé de la population Arménienne sur les Musulmans.

11. La population Musulmane de la campagne d'Erzéroum est Turque dans sa majorité absolue. Il y a cependant un contingent considérable de 6,000 à 7,000 âmes formé des races suivantes:—

(*a.*) Les Kizilbachs; secte moyenne entre l'Islamisme Persan et le Christianisme, langue spéciale, culte spécial, sympathies anti-Turques. Ils habitent dans les Nahiés de Tirnagaban, Djénis, et Kotanis.

(*b.*) Les Lazes; langue spéciale, nation distincte. Ils habitent dans les Nahiés de Megmansour et d'Arab-keudi.

(*c.*) Les Kurdes, langue et origine spéciale. Il y en a dans les Nahiés de Tirnagaban, Haïdari et Keghakhor.

(*d.*) Les Arméno-Musulmans, dans le Nahié de Guiragosag. Non-seulement les

vestiges des églises et des cimetières Arméniens prouvent le précédent de beaucoup de villages aujourd'hui considérés comme Turcs; mais les noms mêmes des familles, et les proches parentées entre Musulmans et Chrétiens, le confirment. Il y a en outre la tradition vivante que l'Islamisme de ces villages ne dépasse pas le dernier siècle.

12. L'élément Chrétien de la campagne d'Erzéroum appartient entièrement à la nation Arménienne, de sorte que il y a autant d'Arméniens que de Chrétiens.

13. Dans la distribution des charges de Mudir, de Mouavin, et d'Aza, dans les nahiés de la campagne. Le Conseil Administratif de la Province d'Erzéroum a adopté de son initiative le principe de les recruter dans les divers villages formant le nahié, afin d'avoir en temps ordinaire une larve d'autorité en plusieurs endroits.

14. L'inconvénient indiqué dans le § 8 a été tellement sensible, que le Conseil Administratif de la province a été obligé de suspendre provisoirement l'organisation effective des nahiés à Thortoum et à Narman, y conserver les anciens Mudirs payés, et demander en toute hâte la formation d'un caza dans ces pays, et la nomination d'un Caïmacam pour Thortoum et Narman. Pour le même motif on a fait la demande à la Sublime Porte pour la création d'un autre caza dans la campagne d'Erzéroum, outre le caza spécial qui doit toujours rester à la ville d'Erzéroum, chef-lieu du vilayet.

15. Les observations faites dans le § 9 sur les données statistiques ont d'autant plus de valeur que le Gouvernement a émané des ordres sévères et précis, pour empêcher aux Arméniens de l'Arménie toute étude ou investigation statistique sur leur pays, un tel ordre donnerait lieu à beaucoup d'importants commentaires.

Erzéroum, le 16 Décembre, 1880.

No. 25.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 55A. Extender.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 7*, 1881.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 46 of the 28th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a note which, in obedience to your instructions, you had addressed to M. Cairoli, with reference to joint action of the Powers at Constantinople on the subject of maladministration in Armenia.

I now inclose copies of a correspondence, as marked in the margin,* from which your Excellency will perceive that for the reasons therein stated, and in deference to the opinion of the German and French Governments, Her Majesty's Government have agreed to defer the proposed representation to the Porte on this subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 26.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 39.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, January 31*, 1881.

THE Tiflis newspaper "Irshak" states that a report is current at Alashkert, in Asiatic Turkey, close to the Russian frontier, among the local Mahommedans, to the effect that a body of Russian Armenians are preparing for a raid into Turkish Armenia. The Governor of Alashkert, in reporting to Erzeroum that Russian Armenians, disguised as pilgrims, are collecting in the vicinity of Uchkiliss with the object of creating an insurrection in Armenia, requested that a detachment of 3,000 soldiers might be sent to him. This force, it is stated, will shortly be dispatched, and its appearance is greatly dreaded by the inhabitants, who regard the soldiers as Bashi-Bazouks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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* Lord Odo Russell, No. 50, Confidential, January 28; and *ante*, Nos. 23 and 30.

No. 27.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 46.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 2, 1881.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 13 of the 12th ultimo, instructing me to inquire whether the Russian Government would instruct their Ambassador at Constantinople to join with his colleagues in a representation to the Porte on the state of affairs in Armenia, I addressed a note to M. de Giers, and called his Excellency's attention to the matter in question.

I have now the honour to inclose copy of a note which I have received from M. de Giers, in which his Excellency informs me that His Majesty has authorized him to send instructions to M. Novikow to join with his colleagues in making a representation to the Porte, provided all the Powers signatory of the Berlin Treaty agree to adopt the proposal of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 27.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{21 \text{ Janvier}}{2 \text{ Février}}$, 1881.

JE n'ai pas manqué de prendre les ordres de Sa Majesté l'Empereur au sujet de la note de votre Excellence du 7 Janvier courant, qui concerne l'opportunité d'une démarche auprès de la Porte afin de lui faire des remontrances sur la manière dont elle exécute les réformes qu'elle a promises en Arménie.

Je suis autorisé à prescrire à l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté à Constantinople de se joindre à cette démarche si elle rencontre l'assentiment de toutes les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin.

En portant cette décision à la connaissance de votre Excellence, je saisis, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 28.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 54.)
My Lord, *Rome, February 3, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No 46 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose translation of a note which I have received from the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that instructions have been sent to Count Corti to unite with his colleagues in remonstrating with the Porte concerning the maladministration of Armenia, as desired by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Count Maffei to Sir A. Paget.

(Translation.)
M. l'Ambassadeur, *Rome, February 1, 1881.*

YOUR Excellency was so good as to send me, on the 24th ultimo, a note inclosing, together with a Confidential Report from the British Vice-Consul at Van, the extract of a petition signed by 900 Armenians, concerning the maladministration of the Ottoman authorities in that district, and to inform me that Her Majesty's Government would be glad if the Italian Representative at Constantinople were furnished with instructions to unite with his colleagues in remonstrating with the Porte respecting their mode of carrying out the projected reforms in Armenia.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have hastened to avail myself

of the opportunity of doing what is agreeable to Her Majesty's Government, by immediately sending the desired instructions to Count Corti.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) MAFFEI.

No. 29.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

E
(No. 69.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 9, 1881.*

HER Majesty's Government continue to receive deplorable accounts of the condition of the population of Asia Minor, more particularly of the Christian portion of them.

Their special attention has been directed to some recent reports from the Vilayet of Erzeroum, which represent the state of misgovernment and oppression to be such as to be a serious cause of danger to the permanent maintenance of the authority of the Porte.

In the district of Kegli every encouragement is given to the Beys to recommence their oppressions; petitions from Christians, even when praying for justice in cases of murder, are torn up or disregarded.

The people are exasperated by the barefaced frauds committed in the collection of the tithes.

In the Sandjak of Bayazid the Mutessarif beats and imprisons, without discrimination, in order to extort the payment of the taxes from the impoverished people, who are forced to sell all they possess to meet his demands.

The prisoners are ill cared for, and lie in confinement without knowing whether their cases have been disposed of or not.

Between Sarau and Hamad a boy, and a girl of 13, when on their way to the salt lake at the latter place, were intercepted by Kurds, and the former severely beaten and the latter violated, and no steps have been taken to punish the perpetrators of these outrages.

As an example of the class of persons to whom the welfare of the people is intrusted, it is only necessary to say that out of the seventeen Mudirs appointed to the nahiehs into which the district of Passin has recently been divided, one only can read or write Turkish.

During the last twelve months matters have grown worse rather than better; there appear to be less security for life and property, greater poverty, more injustice, and an increase of oppression and corruption.

Her Majesty's Government cannot suppose that the Sultan can be aware of the existence of this state of affairs, and Her Majesty's Government desire that you will take an early opportunity of bringing it to His Majesty's notice. You will state that the information received by Her Majesty's Government describes the patience of the people as well nigh exhausted, and that rather than remain in their present condition they would be ready to join in any scheme which might offer the faintest chance of liberation from their present intolerable lot. For this feeling the Local Governments are largely responsible. If the Christians had been treated with consideration they might have waited patiently till the Porte was in a position to introduce a large scheme of reform; but their just complaints are treated with contempt, and their appeals for redress only entail the imposition of extra severity as a punishment for their presumption in calling attention to them.

Unless the Porte can be induced at once to make a real beginning with reform, the approach of spring is, according to all accounts, likely to bring about such troubles as may deal a severe blow to the authority of the Sultan in his frontier provinces.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 30.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

E
(No. 136.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 10, 1881.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 84 of the 1st instant, inclosing a copy of a note from the French Government referring to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a joint representation of the Powers to the Porte in regard to the maladministration of affairs in Armenia, and particularly in the Province of Van, and calling attention to the grounds on which the German Government deprecate this question being urged at the present moment, namely, that the efforts of the Powers to arrive at a solution of the Greek Frontier question would be thereby prejudicially affected.

I have now to request your Excellency to state to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire in consequence of the objections thus raised by the German Government, Mr. Goschen will not be instructed to put forward the Armenian question immediately on his return to Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 31.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 84.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 2, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Biliotti respecting the delays which occur in the trial of prisoners at Trebizond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. St. John.

(No. 5.)
Sir, *Trebizond, January* 26, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that some time since the parties who are in custody pending the trial of their cases have been repeatedly complaining of the delays which occur in their settlement, and which cause the prolonged detention of many who should have been set at liberty long ago.

On Saturday last their cries were so loud as to be heard at a distance from the Government Palace, of which the prisons form part, and their demeanour was so violent that the authorities, fearing an outbreak, strengthened the prison guards and distributed cartridges to them.

The excitement in the prisons has subsided for the present, but public opinion is in favour of the prisoners, and the Mussulman population openly express their dissatisfaction at the manner in which trials are conducted by the reformed Courts.

I must add, however, that the motives of complaint, which are quite grounded, must be assigned to past rather than to present mismanagement, the heads of the judicial authorities now appearing to try to expedite standing cases, of which there is a long list.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BILIOTTI.

No. 32.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 85.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 2, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van in regard to the state of feeling among the Armenians in favour of annexation to Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 19. Confidential.)
Sir, *Van, December* 13, 1880.

NO doubt Her Majesty's Government has better information about what is going on among the Armenians in the Russian province of Transcaucasia and of the attitude of the Russian authorities than I can obtain here; but I think it right to call attention again to the feeling which is, I think, growing among the Armenians of this province of the Turkish Empire in favour of annexation to Russia.

The day before yesterday I had a conversation with one of the prominent men of the young Armenian party in Van, who has lately returned from a visit to Tiflis. In talking of the attitude of Greece and her chances of success if she went to war, he said that the subject nations in Turkey were beginning to hold the opinion that Europe would do nothing for those who did not take up arms for themselves, so that if war once broke out between Turkey and Greece, others might take the opportunity and rise also. I remarked, that in that case possibly instead of obtaining liberty they would only fall into the hands of Russia, which they might not like. He replied that the Armenians must not lose the opportunity of freeing themselves from the Turkish yoke for fear of falling into the hands of Russia. Formerly he was much against the idea of coming under Russian rule, but since he had been in Transcaucasia his opinions had altered. The Russians had changed their policy, and would no longer desire to obliterate the Armenian nationality. They had found the use of having the Armenians as a barrier on their frontiers against the Moslems, and would give the Armenians such a Constitution as that they should have self-government, and aid them against their enemies on their frontiers. Moreover, it was necessary that the two parts of Armenia, those under Russia and Turkey, should be united.

Such were the opinions expressed by this individual, and I am sure they are held by many others, and that this party is striving to spread abroad their ideas among the people. I made inquiries afterwards to try and find out whether there was any ground for believing that the Russians were encouraging these aspirations of the Armenians, and heard that the Tiflis Government was watching what the Armenians there were doing, but not interfering with them, and that the Grand Duke had sent for some of the Armenian leaders and asked them what they were about. They replied that Russia had given liberty to the distressed nationalities in the Balkan Peninsula, but that the Armenians in Russia, seeing their brethren in Turkish territory were still in the same oppressed condition, had determined to try and rescue them. The Grand Duke answered that it was not yet time, that they had better remain quiet for the present, but that when the time came the Russian Government would tell them, and also instruct them what to do. Of course, I am unable to say what amount of truth there may be in this story.

It seems to me that if Russia desires to obtain possession of this part of the country she has played her cards well, and that the feeling is growing among the Armenians no longer to be satisfied with an ameliorated system of government under the Turkish Empire, but that their aspirations are becoming fixed on the union together of all Armenians, even though it may be under Russian rule. I cannot say exactly how far this feeling has yet spread, or whether there may not still be a majority who would prefer to remain as they are if just government could only be assured, but I am convinced that the feeling has much grown lately from the doubt whether Europe generally will do anything for them, and will grow day by day in the continued delay of any reform. And it seems to me that if Russia is willing she might easily build up in Armenia a more or less self-governing province, that should

be devoted to her, and, with its great natural resources and intelligent people, add greatly to her wealth and strength.

The answer I make to the arguments I have described is, that the Armenians ought to wait and see whether England and Europe will not obtain for them such an improvement in their condition as will make it better for them to remain as they are than run into unknown risks. So far, I think, I have had some little success in calming their excited spirits, but I do not expect to be able to maintain my influence if reform is much longer delayed, especially now that the apprehensions that at one time existed among them as to the real designs of Russia seem to be passing away. I regret to say that it is utterly useless to make any appeal to loyalty in the face of the persistent efforts of the Turks to prevent the amelioration of the condition of the Christians, and the growing notion that Europe will do nothing for those who do not force themselves upon her notice by taking up arms for themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 33.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 60. Extender.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1881.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency, with reference to your despatch No. 46 of the 2nd instant, that Her Majesty's Government have agreed to defer making representations to the Porte with respect to the non-fulfilment of the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin, as the German and French Governments are of opinion that a discussion on the subject of the condition of the Armenians would interfere with the negotiations for a settlement of the Greek Frontier question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 34.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 98.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 8, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a Report I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad on the state of affairs in the country inhabited by the Hamawand Arabs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Consul-General Plowden to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 150.)
Sir, *Bagdad, December* 31, 1880.

ON the 11th of this month I left Bagdad for a short tour to Khanikin, distant about 100 miles to the north-east of Bagdad, on the Turco-Persian frontier. The object of my journey was partly to acquaint myself with the general condition of the country in this direction, and partly to ascertain the present state of affairs in respect to the Hamawands, whose proceedings have been brought to your Excellency's notice in the correspondence ending with Colonel Miles' No. 112, dated the 15th September last.

2. In this despatch I shall deal only with the Hamawands, and it will perhaps be convenient if I submit a brief summary, prepared from the papers on record in my office, of the chief acts of violence attributed to this tribe from their first outbreak in 1879.

3. The Hamawand Kurds occupy the country in the neighbourhood of Bazian, Kara Hassan, Durband, and Chemchemal, to the north and west of Sulimanin, in the Vilayet of Mosul.

The tribe includes the following sections, the Chiefs of which are all connected with each other by marriage or other ties:—

Hamawand.—Chiefs Takee ibn Kadir, Joamir, and Hamad ibn Mama Suliman.
Setawasar.—Chief Bairam ibn Ali and his brother.
Rashwand.—Chiefs Kakaloka and Salim.
Sufrawand.—Chief Ahmed ibn Kala Paya.

The tribe is a small one, but its individual members are turbulent and brave, and being well mounted and well armed, they are able, as experience has shown, to keep a considerable extent of country in a state of disquiet and alarm. Moreover, there is little doubt that their success has attracted recruits from neighbouring tribes, and that their ranks include not a few deserters from Turkish regiments. Altogether the whole band of marauders numbers probably 1,000 horsemen, about half of whom are Hamawands proper.

4. It was in the autumn of 1879 that reports of the outrages of the Hamawands first began to arrive. In the Bagdad Vilayet they attacked a large caravan travelling from Kirmanshah to Bagdad, and twice encountered the Turkish troops, carrying off on both occasions considerable booty in the shape of arms and ammunition.

In the Vilayet of Mosul the Hamawands showed themselves at Salahia, on the Bagdad border; at Kafar and at Altyn Kupri; and they rendered the road between Kerkook and Arbel so unsafe as to make it necessary to protect the mails with a strong military and police guard. Nor were their operations restricted to Turkish territory. In Persia, between Kasr-i-shrin and Zohab, in the month of September, they waylaid two caravans, one from Kirmanshah, and the other from Bagdad. A few weeks later, in the same neighbourhood, they plundered two more caravans, with loss of life on both occasions.

5. From December 1879 to July 1880 the Hamawands appear to have remained quiet. But in the latter month the British Agent at Kirmanshah reported that a band of them had entered the Persian district of Zohab, and that measures were being taken to expel them.

About the same time information reached Mr. Russell, Vice-Consul at Mosul, that the Hamawands had risen near Kerkook, and that one Turkish officer—Halil Agha—and eight or ten zaptiehs had been killed. Reinforcements had been dispatched from Mosul, but it was rumoured that the Hamawands had been joined by deserters from Turkish regiments. During the months of August and September the Hamawands were extremely active, and having divided themselves into four bands committed raids in all directions. In the Bagdad Vilayet, the country through which I marched had been the scene of some of their exploits. Thus, at Kizil Robat I saw the spot where the Hamawands had encamped, and whence they threatened the town. At Beledruz, a few miles to the south, they plundered the Deniyeh Arabs of 40,000 sheep, besides cattle and horses. On this occasion it is said that they were assisted by a party belonging to the Kulhur tribe, whose Chief is Riza Kuli Khan. The Kulhurs are Persian subjects, but, like the Hamawands, they are Sunnis.

At Mendeli, in the same neighbourhood, they were attacked and beaten by the Turkish troops; but at Kara Tépé they carried off many sheep and disposed of their spoils in Persian territory. On the 1st September the Vali of Bagdad started for Khanikin, but did not proceed beyond Bakooba, about 30 miles from Bagdad, and on the 11th September his Excellency returned to the city. At the same time the Turkish garrison at Khanikin was strengthened, and since the end of October the Hamawands have committed no serious outrage in the Bagdad Vilayet.

In the Mosul Vilayet their principal exploit was the attack on Sulimanieh. According to the account given by a Jew inhabitant of that town, which has been already forwarded to your Excellency in Colonel Miles' No. 89, dated 4th August, 1880, they invested the town for three days, and would assuredly have captured it except for the timely arrival of a regiment of Turkish infantry.

6. The events related in the preceding paragraphs all happened before I reached Bagdad. Since my arrival the principal occurrence has been the robbery of the Turkish mail near Kerkook, and the plunder of a considerable sum of money the property of the Turkish Government.

In the same week the Persian post from Kirmanshah was attacked, but only letters were lost. When I was at Khanikin the main body of Hamawands were at Shey Khan, in Persian territory, but, from all I could learn, the Persian authorities were not acting with much vigour. The Turkish officers on the frontier complained not only that they were prohibited from pursuing the Hamawands across the border, but also that the Persian authorities, notwithstanding the orders sent from Tehran, would not act in concert with them. Probably the Persians make similar complaints against the Turkish authorities. The latest report which has reached me since my return to

Bagdad is that the Persians attacked the Hamawands and drove them into Turkish territory near Bin-Kudra, and that Sheikh Jonnir himself was wounded. The Turks then fell upon them and forced them to return to Persian territory, when they again encountered the Persian levies and beat them. I may note here that the Persians have not employed any regular troops; they have only called out the local frontier guards. The Persian loss is said to have been 200 men and as many muskets; the Hamawands lost 60 men.

7. I have inquired from several sources as to the cause of these proceedings on the part of the Hamawands, and I have not found that they can complain of any special grievances. Times have been hard lately, and food dear; the Hamawands, besides their natural aptitude for plunder, have seen their opportunity in the weakness of the local Turkish Government. It has even been said that so long as the Hamawands confined their raids to Mosul territory, the Vali of Bagdad was not greatly concerned at their success. It gave him the opportunity of advising the restitution of the Province of Mosul to the Vilayet of Bagdad, just as the disturbances among the Montefik Arabs had induced the Porte to abolish Basrah as a separate Government, and reunite it with Bagdad. Another explanation recently given me is that the Hamawand Kurds have been acting under instructions from Sheikh Obeidullah, and that their movements form part of a national rising by the Kurds against their Turkish and Persian masters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TREVOR C. PLOWDEN.

No. 35.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 99.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 8, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the following subjects:—

No. 50. Armenian movement for annexation to Russia.
No. 51. Unsatisfactory state of district of Van.
No. 52. Arrival of a Persian General to demand punishment of Sheikh Obeidullah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 35.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 50. Confidential.)
Sir, *Van, December 27, 1880.*

WITH reference to the matters spoken of in my last despatch No. 49, Confidential, of the 13th December, some further information has reached me.

Major Kamsaragan, the Russian Vice-Consul, returned last week from his tour through Bitlis, Diarbekir, Kharput, Erzinjan, Erzeroum, and Mush, and he told me that he knew the idea generally prevailed that he had been stirring up the Armenians to revolt. He said he was aware that there was a movement in that direction among the Armenians, but he had discouraged it rather than excited it, because he knew the Armenians were not very brave, and that they had not arms, organization, or means for such an enterprise, and that if they attempted such a thing they would not succeed, and must be destroyed. His evidence, therefore, confirms the fact of there being such a movement, though denying that it is encouraged by Russia. Again, there are at present in Van and the country round a great many Russian Armenians, more than at any previous period since I have been here. I have myself seen a good many, and an Armenian neighbour of mine who called on me yesterday said there were more than a hundred in Van at present. He also told me that meetings were held at night, at which these Russian Armenians promised help to their compatriots if they revolted. He said also that there had been 50,000 Russian Armenians ready to cross the frontier a few weeks ago, but that the Chiefs of the Armenians here had entreated them to do nothing before the spring, as winter operations must cause so much misery to the population. My neighbour does not like the idea of looking for help to Russia, as he

distrusts Russia's aims, and he is strongly opposed to revolt, knowing the weakness of the Armenians, and he therefore came to tell me what he knew.

I have no means here of forming a judgment as to what Russia's real policy may be at present. If she is willing to postpone the solution of the Eastern question, and will not encourage these plots, I do not think anything serious will come of them unless the Moslems, roused by some partial disturbance, should be betrayed into atrocities and massacres. But if Russia wishes that the Eastern question, with all its possibilities, should be reopened, I think there are the materials ready for an explosion on the introduction of a spark from outside. Therefore the correct appreciation of Russia's policy is of great importance.

There is little doubt that the Turkish authorities have some suspicion about what is going on among the Armenians, and unfortunately, though, perhaps, naturally, the result is to render them even more averse than they were before to giving justice and protection to the Christians. It would be very well if they could be brought to understand that removing the great causes of complaint would be much more efficacious in securing their power than repression, which will only the more endanger it. The most reasonable of the Armenians seem still somewhat mistrustful of Russia, and, if a real reform were only begun, would, I think, throw their influence into the scale to persuade their people to remain content in their present allegiance, and the people generally would be satisfied if their lives, property, and honour were secure; but any further repressive measures will only play into the hands of the agitators and keep the country in a condition ready to respond at once to Russia's touch whenever she may desire to apply it.

There are signs that the Turks are filled at present with very great distrust of the intentions of both England and Russia. Major Kamsaragan has informed me that he has learned, on authority in which he places implicit confidence, that secret orders have been sent from the Maheyn Humaioun Mushiriyet to all Valis and Mutessarifs to keep a strict watch on Russian and English Consuls and Vice-Consuls, and to report all their movements and proceedings, and also the names of all who have intercourse with or visit them and of all whom they may visit. I have also become aware that the belief is very commonly held or professed that Sheikh Obeidullah's recent hostilities with the Persians were instigated by me when I visited him in the summer, and that this supposed action on my part and the instigation of the Armenians to revolt attributed to Major Kamsaragan are due to some secret plan of action mutually arranged between the English and Russian Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 35.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 51.)
Sir, *Van, December 29, 1880.*

I REGRET to have again to call attention to the unsatisfactory way in which the Turkish authorities perform their duties in my Consular district, and to the unhappy condition of a great part of the country.

The authorities appear to take no efficient steps to prevent Kurdish robbery and outrage. A deputation from the inhabitants of Shaddakh came to me yesterday to speak of their sufferings, and handed to me a list of the robberies and crimes committed in that district in the three months August, September, and October last. From this list it appears that in that space of time the Kurds carried away in pillage 4,060 piastres, 3,322 sheep, 38 head of cattle, 5 horses, 10 mules, 349 "chups" of corn. In addition, 3 men were killed, and 12 stables and 24,400 bundles of hay were burned.

I have for some time past been urging on the Government to take steps to prevent this lawlessness, and the Vali has assured me several times that he has written very strongly to the Kaïmakam of Shaddakh, instructing him to take the necessary steps for punishing crime and protecting the people, and that a battalion had been sent for that purpose. But the deputation told me that, although the troops had come, the Commander had declined to do anything, saying he had no orders, and I am convinced that the battalion was sent merely to facilitate its provisioning during the winter, and not for the protection of the people, and that there is no intention of doing anything effectual for the latter. Rashid Bey, the Kaïmakam, is a Kurd, and two of the

principal robber Chiefs, Mehmed and Ali, of the family of Grawli, sit in the Idaré Medjliss at Shaddakh, and although endless complaints are made against them, they are quite unmolested, and powerfully protect other minor Kurdish evil-doers. The Government is either afraid or unwilling to punish Kurds and protect Christians or the peaceable Moslems, and always report to Constantinople that the complaints have no foundation.

From Mukus similar complaints reach me, and these districts are only examples of what occurs in many others, though not always to the same extent.

I have lately also become aware of some events that have taken place at Bitlis. Colonel Norton whilst he was there had his suspicions aroused that the officials were anxious to connive at the escape from prison of a number of Kurdish malefactors, but as long as he remained there he was able to frustrate their plans. A few weeks ago, however, he was ordered to Sert, and within ten days of his departure nineteen criminals escaped, all of them murderers, one being credited with having killed nearly a hundred persons during his life.

From Hakkiari also come reports of great distress. The Persians appear to be revenging themselves on the Kurds on the Persian side of the frontier, and large numbers of these Kurds are therefore fleeing to Turkish territory. The agricultural villagers of Hakkiari are ordered by Government to receive these fugitives, and to keep them for the winter, in spite of their remonstrances urging that from famine they can hardly keep themselves, and now it is very hard that Government should force them to receive and supply those who have aided much to bring them to their present miserable condition by their raids and plundering.

In consequence of the condition of the country, and the neglect of its duty by the Government, discontent and excitement are widespread, specially among the Christians, but also to some extent among the peaceable Moslem country population, and it is indeed most discouraging to see the Government and influential people persistently on the side of lawlessness and the lawless, instead of being on the side of right and those who keep the law. I cannot help sympathizing to a great extent with the Armenians in their discontent, although I try to keep them quiet in hopes that England may be able to effect such an improvement in their condition as may render it needless for them to undertake desperate action or throw themselves into the arms of Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 35.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 52.)
Sir, *Van, December 29, 1880.*

I HAVE to inform you that a General in the Persian army, accompanied by his suite, arrived here last night on a mission to the Mushir commanding the Turkish troops, to demand the punishment of Sheikh Obeidullah and the surrender to the Persian authorities of the Kurds who have fled across the frontier. He is accredited to the Mushir, not to the Vali, as the former is supposed to have special powers for dealing with this affair. The Mushir, Nafiz Pasha, has put off receiving the mission till to-morrow, probably to gain time for consideration, and perhaps to communicate with Constantinople.

It is reported here that the Russians have 40,000 men, with forty or fifty guns, near Nachdschewan, and that there is a bridge train at Erivan and other equipment for taking the field. It is supposed that this concentration of troops is in view of giving assistance to Persia in case of necessity.

I may mention that as I was calling on the Vali to-day a letter was brought to him, and, on opening it, he turned to me and said that orders had come to call out the Redif; for what reason he said he did not know, unless war with Greece was imminent.

The mail leaves early to-morrow morning, so I must send this despatch without waiting for further details.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 36.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 100.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 8, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of a despatch from Lieutenant F. Bennet, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana, describing the deplorable state of that province.

It is to be hoped that Abédine Pasha, the late Minister for Foreign Affairs, who has already started for Adana as Governor-General, will render the same good services in the cause of justice and order in that province as his Excellency rendered at Siwas and in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Lieutenant Bennet to Mr. St. John.

(No. 3.)
Sir, *Adana, January 22, 1881.*

I HAVE recently visited Tarsus and Mersina Kaïmakamliks, of the Adana Sandjak. Tarsus is three-and-a-half hours by carriage from Adana, and Mersina two-and-a-half hours beyond Tarsus. The road is level throughout. This road was completed at great expense about five years ago, since which little or nothing has been done to keep it in repair; it is now in a very bad state, and in wet weather almost impassable between Tarsus and Mersina. The bridges and culverts, which latter seem to be needlessly numerous, badly constructed at first, are fast falling to pieces, and dangerous gaps, partly-executed excavations, obstruct one's progress, and at times compel one to walk; the road requires, besides these repairs, remetalling throughout, and trees should be planted.

For the last two years a toll has been levied on all vehicles and pack animals, and this year this sold for about 1,500 liras (£ T.). The money, I am informed, is handed to a Company, who profess to expend it, but the result is not apparent.

The Acting Vali, Hadji Akif Effendi, has proposed to let the road for ten years to a Company, free of charge, on the condition that it is set in order, and maintained so subject to the approval of the Vilayet Engineer, the Company also making themselves responsible for a debt of about 3,000*l.* which is owing. This arrangement seems desirable, as there would then be a chance of something being done; but he cannot get the necessary authority from the Porte, which seems to take no notice, and so things remain as they are, and the condition of the road gets worse from day to day.

Tarsus has borne a bad reputation in the past as regards the administration of justice and Government generally, and I do not find that matters have improved. There is a large population, composed of various elements; robberies, which were formerly of frequent occurrence in the town, have diminished in the town itself, but are on the increase in the outskirts and villages; but it is difficult to arrive at any definite conclusion on this head, as all confidence in the Law Courts has disappeared, and cases are settled as much as possible without having recourse to the authorities, by paying a ransom for the return of stolen property.

The question of the hour at Tarsus is the Perso-Afghan difficulty. A feud has existed between the Persians and Afghans for the last twenty years, due, I believe, to national hatred, and every now and then a serious disturbance breaks out. Last winter there was a serious affray, and about two months ago a Persian was found murdered on the outskirts of the town, and suspicion naturally falling on the Afghans, there was considerable excitement and disorder ensued, which has occasioned much bickering and correspondence between the Persian Consul and the authorities.

I did not think it necessary to go into details of the late disorders, but I am quite satisfied that the whole fault of these periodical outbursts, which, from the excitable natures of both parties, may at any moment result in a serious catastrophe, is to be attributed to the utter absence of good government. Hardly anything occurs in or around Tarsus, and, indeed, generally between Adana and Mersina, of a lawless character, which is not at once laid to the doors of the Persians. The Afghans do this from natural causes, the Moslems, I suspect, from natural hatred and fanaticism, and

the Christians, probably; so as to be on the side of the majority. But there exists no proof whatever of the fact. Far be it from me to wish to uphold the Persians in any way.

I think that most likely there are amongst them more than a fair share of lawless spirits, but to attribute everything to them is unjust and absurd. The Turks have, as usual, failed to govern. During the last six months, to put a stop to the robberies in the city, begtches (night watchmen) have been appointed exclusively from the Afghan portion of the community, with, as I am informed, a most satisfactory result, and the Government takes no little credit to themselves for their wisdom; but it seems to me a most foolish proceeding, as thereby the Government runs the risk of the serious charge of encouraging rather than striving to allay the ill-feeling. Hadji Akif Effendi informs me that he has sent for a company of infantry from Téké, half to be stationed here and half at Tarsus; that he intends to place the Afghan begtches by soldiers, and that I shall shortly see a great improvement in the administration of affairs at Tarsus.

Time will show. Meanwhile, as a commencement, the notoriously corrupt Kaïmakam of Mersina has been promoted to Tarsus, a man who tacitly acknowledged his corruption in my presence.

While at Tarsus I saw a good deal of Mr. Debbas, the United States' Vice-Consul and the representative of the heirs of the Dingwall estate. He, poor man, has had troubles and annoyances of his own to contend with lately, all of which he attributes (rather unnecessarily, in my opinion) to his connection with that "cause célèbre," and consequently, since the sentence of last January, the circumstances attending which is narrated in Captain Cooper's No. 2 of the 28th January, 1880, to Consul Henderson, no further attempt has been made to obtain justice. That sentence, as you will remember, was not accepted, and the matter dropped.

Mr. Debbas, for this country, certainly strikes me as a particularly honest and straightforward man, and he seems to know the ins and outs of this intricate case pretty well; but his mind has been brooding on it and his own misfortunes for so many years that it has become rather warped and confused, and partly on this account and partly on account of his business relations with the late Captain Dingwall, and partly also because he happens to be excessively unpopular with the officials, I do not think, either for his own sake or on account of the heirs, the conduct of the case should be in his hands.

Here, where all men are unreliable, and intrigues and bribery usually resorted to, it may be difficult to find an unprejudiced lawyer to conduct the case, but the facts are so notorious and disgraceful, and so much injury has been done, in my opinion, to British interests in this district through the failure to obtain justice, that it would seem scarcely possible Her Majesty's Government will allow the matter to rest.

It will not be necessary for me to go into the almost endless mass of details connected with the case; the facts remain that an Englishman died in Mersina in 1873, leaving property in the shape of farms, stock, &c., to the value of 8,000*l.* to 10,000*l.*, and the whole of this was disposed of, and the heirs have not only never received a penny, but, owing to a deliberate series of intrigues, chicanery, and frauds, they have never been able to get a semblance of justice done in the matter. The case now seems to divide itself into two:—

1. The criminal prosecution of Hawes, who disposed of the property.

2. The annulling of the false budget, or power of attorney, which may be the means of saving from 1,000*l.* to 2,000*l.* from the ruin.

With a new Vali here, and a new Cadi and Kaïmakam at Tarsus, it might seem possible that a successful attempt might now be made, but, from my knowledge of local circumstances, I have no hesitation in saying that unless most stringent orders are issued from the Porte that justice must be done, and, I would almost add, without the presence of an experienced legal representative to watch the case on the part of Her Majesty's Government, the same influence which was formerly successful in defeating justice would again attain the like end.

Really, the systematic way in which justice is defeated by corruption and by a perfect maze of intriguery and rascality in this district is appalling: I am sorry to say it, but it is a fact, that I have absolutely nowhere to turn to obtain reliable information; I can believe nothing that I do not see with my own eyes, and I cannot but think that the numerous Consular Representatives, unpaid and generally speaking with adverse commercial interests, are not in a great measure responsible for this lamentable state of affairs; the actual sufferer in the long run is the poor, harmless, long-suffering Turkish peasant or farmer, who will of course endure to the end.

On my return to Adana I hear of a murder on the Marash road, about 11 hours from here, and a serious robbery in this vicinity. The culprits are supposed to be in custody.

Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" is expected to-day in Ayas Bay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 37.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 106.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 9, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches from the British Acting Consul-General at Beyrout and Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Damascus on the subject of disturbances in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Mr. St. John.

(No. 6.)
Sir, *Beyrout, January 31, 1881.*

I HAVE this morning received, under flying seal, Mr. Vice-Consul Jago's despatch No. 2 to you of the 30th instant, reporting on the recent disturbance that has taken place in the Hauran.

I have the honour to inform you that the two battalions of regular troops, mentioned by Mr. Jago, as having been recalled from Beyrout, returned to Damascus on the 29th instant. These battalions, amounting to about 1,200 men, were destined, it is stated, for the Island of Crete, and the steamboat to take them away was already in port awaiting their embarkation. Pressing telegrams from Damascus, however, counter-ordered their departure.

I am informed by his Excellency Rustem Pasha, that he has given strict orders to prevent any of the Lebanon Druzes joining those of the Hauran, and that he has also taken guarantees from the different Druze Chiefs, that none of their followers should leave the Lebanon.

His Highness Hamdi Pasha, the Governor-General of Syria, who recently proceeded to Damascus, has been detained there in consequence of these troubles in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. DICKSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. St. John.

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Damascus, January 30, 1881*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 21, dated the 22nd December, 1880, on subject of the Hauran and the Jabel Druze, I have the honour to report that four days since, in consequence of unredressed murders of Druzes in the Moslem villages of the Hauran Plains, the Druzes of Trey, in the Druze Mountain adjacent, attacked the Moslem village of Karak Um Weled, killing many of the inhabitants and burning houses.

Accurate details as to the loss of life on both sides are not yet procurable; meanwhile two battalions of Nizam have just left for the Hauran to reinforce the battalion stationed there; as also 150 mounted riflemen, and two battalions which left Damascus for Beyrout for foreign service, and were detained at the latter place, have been ordered back here.

Instructions have been sent to Rustem Pasha, Mutessarif of Mount Lebanon, to prevent the Druzes there from joining their co-religionists in the Hauran.

The extreme penury of the Provincial Treasury resulting from remittances to the

Palace and the War Office of Constantinople and the pacific tendencies of the Governor-General will, I trust, be found sufficient to prevent further bloodshed, and to terminate satisfactorily, for the present at least, the feuds between the Druzes and the Hauranese peasantry which have given rise to the past and present disturbances.

Meanwhile, public (Mahommedan) opinion is much excited against the Druzes, the more so as rumours of great atrocities committed by them are rife.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 38.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 110.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 9, 1881.

I CANNOT give your Lordship a better proof of the pecuniary straits in which the Turkish Government finds itself at the present moment than by inclosing a copy of a telegram which I received to-day from Captain Clayton, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, according to which the Governor-General there is threatened with dismissal and punishment if he does not remit funds to Constantinople from his famine-stricken district.

Among the various expedients by which the Porte is endeavouring to meet the ever increasing expenses of the War Department, I may mention an attempt to raise 100,000*l.* by pledging the half of the bridge tolls in the Golden Horn to the house of Messrs. Lorando.

These bankers, I am told, would be willing to advance the money on such security if the Government would fix the moiety of the bridge revenue; otherwise when the money was once paid the bridge receipts would immediately turn out to have diminished.

To meet the pressing demands for money another expedient has, I am told, been devised, that of extending the liability to military service to the Mussulman portion of the population of the capital, and of imposing the exemption tax upon the Christians, a measure, I believe, never before resorted to.

The census which is about to be taken here would seem to show that there is some foundation for the rumour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Captain Clayton to Mr. St. John.

(Telegraphic.) *Van, February* 8, 1881.

GOVERNOR has gone to demand repayment of corn given last year to famine-stricken district. Sheep tax is also to be sold at once. Governor-General tells me confidentially he had received telegram from Council of Ministers threatening dismissal and punishment if he did not send money.

No. 39.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 116.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 15, 1881.

I INCLOSE some further information respecting the concession which, it is said, is about to be given to Dr. Strousberg.

It seems a matter of some regret that the Ottoman Government should give a concession for a scheme of such great importance to a person in the position of Dr. Strousberg, but I am not aware that your Lordship wishes any action to be taken in the matter.

I will continue to endeavour to obtain information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Memorandum.

L'AGENT Secret, M. Dobicsky, m'a informé d'avoir appris par l'entremise de M. Stanislas Chudzynski, Architecte employé au Ministère des Travaux Publics, que Jeudi dernier le Lieutenant-Colonel Faïk Bey, officier de Génie Turc, et M. Noring, se sont trouvés au Ministère des Travaux Publics, où ils ont eu une entrevue avec l'Inspecteur-Général du Ministère.

L'entretien aurait coulé sur le projet du Général Klapka, projet que le Gouvernement Ottoman aurait rejeté comme impraticable. Le Gouvernement Turc n'aurait pas hésité à donner la préférence au projet du Dr. Strousberg, qui offre plus d'avantages. On assure que le projet du Dr. Strousberg a été accepté par le Gouvernement Ottoman et que dans quelques jours il recevra le Firman de la concession.

(Signé) MARINICH.

Constantinople, le 12 Février, 1881.

No. 40.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 117.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 15, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship extracts from a despatch I have received from Mr. Richards, reporting upon various matters in the Vilayet of Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Mr. Richards to Mr. St. John.

(Extract.) *Amasia, January* 23, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Armenian prisoners were released on Tuesday, the 11th instant, but as I left for Amasia the same day I have not as yet received intelligence as to any legal proceedings taken by either side. I am given to understand that it is the Vali's wish now that the trial should take place as soon as possible, so that I hope to be in a position shortly to inform your Excellency as to its results.

A few days previous to my departure from Sivas, I had an interview with a deputation of refugees from Kars now in Sivas. They asserted that there were now in the city and immediate neighbourhood no less than 800 families of refugees, all of whom were still unestablished; that they lived from hand to mouth, with no settled means of subsistence, the greater number of them gaining a precarious livelihood by begging; that, with the exception of a few of them who were wealthy, the vast majority were artisans and petty tradesmen, but that, being altogether without capital, they had been unable to buy stock-in-trade sufficient to give them a start in their several occupations. They complained that in reality they were in a far worse plight than their fellow-countrymen in the villages, for that the latter were very frequently both housed and fed by the villagers, and even aided in the cultivation of the land assigned them by the Government, whereas they had to content themselves with such shelter as charity afforded them, and were never sure of a livelihood from one day to another. I told them that, as for rations, the Government had ceased to give such help for some time, there not being sufficient funds in the Treasury to maintain such a vast number of refugees as were now in the country, but that they certainly were supposed to be housed, not only here in the city but throughout the vilayet, and that hitherto I had been under the impression that this was the case. They maintained earnestly that it was not so; that in different parts of the city 200 or 300 would be found huddled together in a barn, often roofless, where they suffered very much from hunger and the severity of the weather. This I subsequently ascertained to be true in one or two instances. I told them that such matters lay entirely within the province of Mehmet Ali as Refugee

Commissioner, but that, as the Consulate held no communications with him, the only help I could give them would be by stating their case to your Excellency, for which they expressed themselves very grateful.

During my journey from Sivas to Amasia I inquired on several occasions how the new system of electing Mudirs worked, and in general I received very satisfactory answers. Your Excellency is probably aware that the appointment of Mudirs is no longer, as formerly, a vested right of the Governor-General of a province. According to the new system, the Mudir exercises administrative jurisdiction over a group of villages or rather hamlets, comprising 200 houses, the inhabitants of which elect the person destined to fill that office by a majority of votes. If the greater number of the inhabitants of these newly-constituted communes are Moslem, the Mudir must be a Moslem; and if, on the contrary, the religion professed by the majority be Christian, the Mudir should be a Christian. Although the new system seems to work well in the part of the country I have recently traversed, I must confess that at Sivas on one or two occasions I heard complaints as to how it had given rise to an abuse which is only too common in this country, viz., the overruling of the opinion and wish of the many by the concerted action of the few. It seems that in some cases a Mudir has be forced on the inhabitants of a commune by a few comparatively wealthy peasants with interests in common, the forwarding of which was to be entrusted to a Mudir of their own choice, the election by vote in such cases being a mere farce. However, it is not improbable that the above, though it really exist, has been somewhat exaggerated.

I also made inquiries on the road as to the working of the new system of collecting the tithe directly by Government officials without the intervention of the "Multezims." It seems that the results are unsatisfactory both for the Government and the people. The amount collected is less than formerly, whereas in most cases the complaints of robbery and oppression are almost, if not quite, as loud as under the old system of farming. The reason seems to be that the "Shahanés," "Mühürdjis," and "Kyatibs,', a host of petty officials employed in the collection of the tithe, being underpaid, have recourse to extortion in order to supplement their meagre salaries, and, at the same time, being merely Government functionaries, they have not the incentive of private interest to collect as much as lies in their power. I beg to make this statement with all diffidence, as the part of the country I have traversed is only a very small portion of the province throughout which the new Regulations are now in force.

I have also the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a despatch from your Excellency of date the 30th December, in which you state the reasons of the dismissal from office of Hafiz Suleiman Effendi, late Comptroller of Finances at Amasia. During my residence here I have made repeated inquiries as to Suleiman Effendi's case, and I have invariably received the same answer, viz., that none of the charges of embezzlement brought against him can be substantiated; that, on the contrary, his conduct throughout has been exceptionally good, but that, unfortunately, by a somewhat haughty and repellent demeanour he made many enemies here and very few friends. I am assured that the real reason of the charges of malversation brought against him is that he refused to pay the "mutevellis" (trustees) of "vakf" property in this sandjak for the very efficient reason that he had not received orders from Constantinople to do so, while, at the same time, he was paying holders of "havalés" in accordance with instructions. The "mutevellis" of "vakf" property are some of the wealthiest and most influential men in the district, who, provoked by the refusal to satisfy their claims, formed a cabal against Suleiman Effendi in order to effect his dismissal from office. Unfortunately their exertions proved successful, but even then, if their victim had consented to employ bribery, he would have escaped. This, however, he refused to do, with the evident result. As your Excellency has not expressed any wish to receive further information on this subject I refrain from giving details, merely adding that I am in a position to do so if required.

I beg to inform your Excellency that I have received instructions from Colonel Wilson to address any official correspondence I may have to write to him, with copies to your Excellency and the Foreign Office, with which I shall in future comply.

No. 41.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received February 27, 9 P.M.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 27, 1881, 7 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 139 of the 25th instant, Mr. Dickson reports that a collision occurred in Beyrout between Mahommedans and Christians on Sunday evening, the 13th instant. Two Christians and one Mahommedan woman were killed, and eleven wounded altogether. Tranquillity restored. Details already sent by post. Local paper states riot was caused by smuggling tobacco.

No. 42.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 126.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 18, 1881.*

WITH reference to Mr. St. John's despatch to your Lordship No. 4 of the 4th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Erzeroum respecting oppression in the Sandjak of Bayazid.

Captain Everett's despatch of the 20th January on this subject has not yet reached this Embassy. Mr. St. John informs me that on receipt of Captain Everett's No. 25 of the 24th December he communicated to Assim Pasha a memorandum on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 2. Political.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, January 27, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a letter which I have received from Hoohannes, Armenian Bishop of Utch-Kilisseh, in the Sandjak of Bayazid.

As I have already fully reported on the conduct of the Mutessarif in my despatch No 25, Political, of the 24th December, 1880, and again in a despatch* addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador on the 20th instant, of which I send you a copy, I need here only re-echo the prayer of the Bishop, and beg, for the sake of humanity, that, if possible, some steps may be shortly taken to ameliorate the condition of these unfortunate people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

The Bishop of Utch-Kilisseh to Captain Everett.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Alashgert, December 7, 1880.*

AFTER the war the inhabitants of this district were pillaged, and since they have suffered severely from famine. But both these calamities were slight in comparison with the visit which the Mutessarif has made to our districts for the purpose of collecting the taxes.

The whole of these taxes he has collected by force, showing no mercy, and taking from the poor people everything they possess, even to their instruments of agriculture and winter stores of food, which he has caused to be sold.

To the people who in these times can barely keep themselves alive such a scourge is heavier than famine.

For the sake of humanity have mercy on us.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HOOHANNES.

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* Not yet received.

No. 43.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 129. Confidential.)

Constantinople, February 21, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a Confidential despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo relative to the appointment of Djemil Pasha as Vali of Aleppo, and containing observations upon his character and antecedents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Consul Henderson to Mr. St. John.

(No. 2. Confidential.)

Aleppo, February 3, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Saïd Pasha's resignation has been accepted, and that Djemil Pasha, the Ferik in command of the garrison, has been named Vali. Saïd Pasha has thoroughly maintained his reputation for honesty during his tenure of office, but, unfortunately, his administration of the vilayet has not been a success, and the greatest anarchy prevails everywhere throughout the province. Djemil Pasha has thus a somewhat difficult task before him, and it seems very evident that he is little fitted to cope with the existing difficulties.

He calls himself "L'enfant gâté de l'Ambassade de France," and the influence brought to bear by the French Embassy to obtain the confirmation of his appointment is probably in recognition of the valuable assistance he gave the French in procuring the dismissal of Midhat Pasha from Syria. You are doubtless aware that Sir Henry Layard's visit to Syria was viewed with great suspicion by his French colleague, and subsequently M. de Torcey, the French Military Attaché at Constantinople, was sent by M. Fournier to prepare a Report inimical to Midhat Pasha for presentation to the Sultan.

Djemil Pasha is well known to be Midhat's inveterate enemy, and he is equally well known to be a most unscrupulous intriguer. M. de Torcey, before proceeding to Damascus, came to Aleppo to obtain from Djemil the necessary advice and assistance in the preparation of his indictment, and I believe a Report was produced, written expressly for the Sultan's eye, which was a masterpiece of malice, equivocation, and intrigue. An extract of the Report was published in one of the Italian papers some months ago, and Djemil Pasha's name was mentioned as having been the contributor of several of the paragraphs, the responsibility of which even M. de Torcey seemed to shrink from. M. Fournier had left Constantinople before M. de Torcey returned from Syria, but his Report, nevertheless, reached the Sultan, and Midhat Pasha was recalled. M. de Torcey himself spoke to the Sultan in Djemil Pasha's favour, and it is absolutely within my knowledge that his Excellency is now in correspondence with M. Fournier and with M. de Torcey, and I have very good reason to believe that his appointment was pressed on the Sultan personally by M. Tissot.

Saïd Pasha had recently telegraphed to Constantinople demanding Djemil Pasha's immediate removal from Aleppo and an inquiry into his conduct—which in any other country but Turkey would have speedily involved him in a fate no better than that of his victims. Saïd Pasha is exceedingly distressed at Djemil's appointment, not that his Excellency would wish to retain the government of the province himself, but on account of the unwisdom of naming as Administrator of a large and very difficult Government a man who is utterly indifferent to any other consideration than that of his own sensual enjoyment and aggrandisement. Only yesterday his Excellency stated to me that it would be impossible, even in Turkey, to find any one with a more depraved or licentious character. But, on a subject so distasteful, it may suffice when I say that Saïd Pasha's repugnance to his successor is not to be wondered at when that successor himself is heard to boast of the number of abominable offences he commits in a specified time, and that his appointment of Vali will in no way interfere with the levée of prostitutes which it had been his custom to hold in his official residence while Ferik.

However repulsive it may be to one's feelings to be accredited to a man of such a character, it will be my endeavour to act with the greatest caution and reserve, but at the same time, I shall do my utmost to firmly maintain our position and influence, and to uphold the legitimate interests of those whom circumstances have caused to look to us for assistance.

In my despatch No. 38 of the 26th October, I had the honour to state to your Excellency some of Djemil Pasha's intrigues, and since his appointment as Vali he stated to one of my colleagues that he hoped to further ingratiate himself with the Sultan by putting himself in antagonism to all English interests, and also by provoking complaints from the Russian Consul.

M. Ivanoff tells me that he is making a very strong representation to the Russian Ambassador with reference to this appointment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 44.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 133.)

Constantinople, February 21, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, relative to the misgovernment of the Province of Bitlis, and inclosing a list of officials and Notables of that vilayet.

I have informed Captain Clayton that I approve of his proposed visit to that vilayet when the country is open.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 2. Political.)

Van, January 19, 1881.

(Extract.)

INFORMATION that has recently reached me tends to show that misgovernment in the Vilayet of Bitlis is increasing.

In order to carry out the instructions I received from you, to send to Her Majesty's Ambassador lists of the officials and Notables in the Vilayets of Van and Bitlis with remarks, I wrote to persons with whom I am acquainted in Bitlis asking for the necessary information. I obtained replies a few days ago, but the information afforded was very scanty, as it was said that the Christians were living under such a state of terrorism that they dare not write to me, or even communicate with others who might write to me, and that even if I were to go myself to Bitlis no Christian would dare to come and see me.

The fact seems to be that the Turkish authorities are very distrustful of the Christians at present, and are anxious to keep them down as far as possible, and are also doing their utmost to prevent the truth about the present anarchical condition of the country from reaching the ears of Europe.

At present the weather would not permit me to travel to obtain information personally, as the country in the neighbourhood of Bitlis is impassable from snow; but as I think it would be most desirable for me to visit those parts as soon as possible, I purpose, if I do not receive other instructions, to make, as soon as the country opens, the journey I was authorized to make in the autumn, but which I postponed, by the Ambassador's directions, on account of the Kurdish insurrection.

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 3. Political. Confidential.)

Van, January 19, 1881.

Sir,

THE person from whom I received the principal part of the information about the state of affairs at Bitlis is the Rev. G. C. Knapp, the American missionary there,

but he made a special request that his name should not be mentioned as having given information.

From all I can learn Aarif Pasha, the Vali of Bitlis, appears to be a most unfit man for his position. Besides being hostile to the Christians, he is greedy of money and of immoral character. It is related that during a recent tour he made in the Sandjak of Sert a Kurdish Chief brought him a present of five mules and £ T. 30.

The Pasha angrily refused the present, and ordered £ T. 200 to be provided, which with some difficulty the Chief obtained. This Chief is a friend of one of the prisoners who lately escaped from the prison at Bitlis. In all, the Pasha is said to have obtained £ T. 3,700 in bribes in six months. During a recent tour he obtained two girls, the father of one of whom says he received £ T. 50 for her.

You are aware that Saleh Pasha, the Mutessarif of Sert, is an active, well-meaning man, and was trying to get his province into good order. Lately reports have reached me that the Sert Sandjak is getting into a very bad condition, as Aarif Pasha's proceedings have encouraged Kurdish lawlessness.

If any real reform is to be carried out Valis of a different character from that of Aarif Pasha must plainly be appointed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 44.

Captain Clayton to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 2.) *Van, January* 18, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE found very great difficulty in obtaining information about the officials and Notables of the Vilayet of Bitlis. I wrote to persons with whom I am acquainted at Bitlis asking for information, but obtained very little, as the persons to whom I applied answered that the Christians were so terrorized at present that they dare not speak; and, moreover, that if I went there myself they would not dare to come and see me.

The weather at present would render it impossible for me to travel to obtain information personally, as the roads between this and Bitlis are impassable from snow; but I think it would be very well for me to go to those parts as soon as possible, and therefore, unless I receive other instructions, I purpose, as soon as the country is opened, to make the journey I proposed to make in the autumn, but which I postponed, according to your Excellency's desire, on account of the Kurdish insurrection.

In the meantime, I have the honour to inclose the little information I have been able to gather.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 44.

List of Officials and Notables in the Vilayet of Bitlis.

Vali.—Aarif Pasha. An Albanian of Janina. He professes sentiments towards the Christians, and a desire for enlightenment and education. In reality, he is hostile to the Christians, and is besides greedy of money, and of immoral character.

It is related that whilst on a tour in the Sandjak of Sert a Kurdish Chief brought him a present of five mules and £ T. 30. The Pasha rejected the present, and ordered £ T. 200 to be brought, which with some difficulty the Chief obtained. This Chief is a friend of one of the prisoners who recently escaped from the prison at Bitlis. In six months the Pasha is said to have collected £ T. 3,700 in bribes. During a recent tour he obtained two girls, the father of one of whom says he received £ T. 50 for her.

On the whole, Aarif Pasha appears to be a man thoroughly unfit for his position.

Mouavin.—None.

Defterdar.—Hassan Riza Effendi. Formerly Muhasebeji of Van. An enemy to reform, and, having paid a large sum for his appointment, he has to recoup himself.

Mektoubji.—He got into debt and went away during the autumn, and his place has not been filled.

Cadi.—Has been obliged to go to Bagdad on account of ill-health. His duty is being performed temporarily by Hajji Nefehmedin Effendi, a very influential Turk of Bitlis.

He is a man of great plausibility, but his actions are not as good as his words.

The Cadi himself is fanatic and unjust.

As an example of the way justice is done, it is related that some months ago a Christian was robbed in Alashgerd, and his two companions killed by Circassians. A short time afterwards one of the Circassians that had committed the crime was recognized in Bitlis, and arrested. On his being brought before the Cadi the latter said:—

"You killed his companions, why did you not kill him also, and avoid the risk of being tried?"

Mufti.—The Mufti belongs to a family in which the office is hereditary. He and his father behaved well during the late war, having organized a body of 400 men to protect the Christians from the massacre with which they were threatened; but he is corrupt and greedy, and several complaints have been made to me when I have been at Bitlis by village proprietors that he has wrongfully ousted them from their lands and taken possession of them himself.

Notables.

Avidiz Effendi. Armenian. President of Municipality. A wealthy and influential man, but corrupt and always anxious to keep on good terms with the Turks for his own interests.

Kharifgian Shorigian Agha. Armenian. Member of Idaré Mejlis. Not a bad man, but of no capacity.

Ohannes Effendi. Armenian Protestant. Member of Idaré Mejlis. Not a bad man, but has no opinion of his own.

Agop Agha. Nestorian. Always desirous of standing well with the Turks.

Simon Agha Bakhalian. Chief Armenian Notable.

Murad Muradian. Catholic Armenian.

Muklijian Brothers. Armenian merchants.

Keuterian Brothers. Armenian merchants.

Men of high character, of whom I have personally a very good opinion.

Sandjak of Mush.

Mutessarif.—Mahmoud Pasha, son of Hamdi Pasha, of Constantinople. An incapable, unjust man, given to drink. Has just been suspended from his office on account of the affair reported in my despatch to Major Trotter No. 44, Political, of the 23rd November, 1880.

Matdai Umuma.—Hagop Effendi Dirazmian. An Armenian. Was thought well of, but has been dismissed for the same affair.

President of Criminal Court.—Bekir Effendi. A Turk. An upright man, under whom I understand the administration of justice has improved.

Notables.

Avo Effendi. Armenian. Member of Idaré Mejlis. Ignorant; can neither read nor write.

Vartan Agha. Armenian. Member of Idaré Mejlis. Has held various offices for thirty years, but has never given satisfaction to the Christians.

Khabil Agha. Turk. Very oppressive man; is member of Mejlis.

Zermian Agop Effendi. Armenian merchant. Has done much to stimulate the commerce of Mush, having been the first to open trade with Europe.

Muggerditch Effendi Sarian, Armenian Inspector of Schools, an active man; speaks French. The principal Kurdish Chiefs and oppressors in the Sandjak of Mush are—

Mirza Bey and his son, living at Cherkour, who oppress the villages lying in the plain of Mush;

Ibo, Nado, and Khawass Aghas, Chiefs of the Jebranli Kurds, in the district o Varto, who oppress that district and plunder the caravans going between Mush an Erzeroum; and

Sofi Agha, Chief of the Hassananli Kurds, who is the terror of Boulanyk and Manasgerd.

Sandjak of Sert.

Mutessarif.—Saleh Pasha, an Albanian, an active, hospitable, well-meaning man. Before the arrival of the present Vali of Bitlis, the Sandjak of Sert was in comparatively good order, but reports have recently reached me that is getting into a bad condition, Aarif Pasha's rule encouraging Kurdish lawlessness.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Van, January 18, 1881.

No. 45.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 134.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 21, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the subject of the oppression of the Nestorians by the Ottoman officials and Kurds. I propose to communicate a translation of the Rev. Mr. Wahl's letters to Assim Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 1. Political.)

Sir, *Van, January* 4, 1881.

I INCLOSE some extracts from two letters which both reached me last week from the Rev. R. Wahl, the agent sent to the Nestorians by the Archbishop of Canterbury. He gives, as will be seen, a very distressing account of the sufferings undergone by the Nestorians at the hands of Government officials, troops, and Kurds. I am obliged to say that my experience entirely confirms the statements made by Mr. Wahl.

There are various causes which in combination lead to the existing miserable state of things.

In the first place, the financial question. When money is obtained byt he authorities either from the produce of the taxes or from drafts on other vilayets, in the first place a proportion is employed to pay for provisions and fuel for the troops in garrison in Van, and for a certain proportion of provisions for outlying detachments, and for other stores which can only be procured for ready money. After these unavoidable expenses are liquidated all the high officials claim their salaries, and then nothing remains for the pay of subordinate officials, gendarmes, and troops; and a considerable amount of the food and fuel required by the outlying detachments is still unprovided for. Therefore the latter are sent out among the villages to forage for themselves, with what result Mr. Wahl's letters show. The authorities, giving no pay and insufficient subsistence to the soldiery, are in no position to restrain or punish licence, as the attempt to enforce strict discipline without giving proper pay and subsistence would lead to general mutiny.

Secondly, the influence of the Kurds over the authorities. In all the local sub-Governments and Courts there are Kurdish members, usually the most influential Chiefs in the neighbourhood. This looks on the face of it not an unreasonable arrangement, but unfortunately the traditional way of life of the majority of the Kurds is cattle and sheep stealing and other plunder. In many cases the Chiefs who sit in the Medjlisses are themselves the heads of robber clans, or if not, are at all events united in relationship or traditional sympathy with those who are marauders. The result is, that none of the Local Governments make the least attempt to prevent or punish pillage. When the victims are Christians, which is usually the case, religious hatred makes the local authorities sometimes go so far as actively to approve of crime, but they are indifferent even when Moslems suffer, as long as the latter have no influential friends to protect them. The attitude of the vilayet authorities is this—the robber Kurds have protectors in the Tommy Oglou and other influential persons at the head-

quarters of the vilayets, and have on their side also the Kaïmakams and Cadis of the Local Governments, through corruption and fanaticism, and because the Kaïmakams and Cadis would find their position both insecure and unprofitable unless they were friends with the Chiefs. Powerful influence is therefore brought to bear on the vilayet authorities, and they dare not go contrary to this and take real strenuous measures to punish Kurdish criminals, because those who exercise the influence have sufficient power at Constantinople seriously to damage if not entirely to ruin any one they conceive an enmity against, and because of the fear lest energetic proceedings against the Kurds should lead to disturbances for which the authorities would be blamed by the Porte. Add to these influences the fact that the Turks generally sympathize with the Kurds in their oppressions of Christians, and that the Government looks on them as useful instruments in maintaining their power over the Christians, and it is not difficult to see why the vilayet Governments take no effective measures for the peace and security of the country.

Lastly, under the Turkish Empire reward and punishment are the meed of favour or disfavour, not of right or wrong conduct. And this favour is obtained by corrupt and underhand influences. Therefore, men in authority have no interest in being upright and good rulers, but are unrestrained in any course of action to which passion, prejudice, or self-interest may incline them.

In fact, the whole *personnel* of the Ottoman Government is so rotten, that it is impossible that any mere legislative measures should effect any appreciable good. The less change of machinery the better; the real thing that is wanted is a change in the character of those who work it, which can only be brought about by the presence in the country of a certain number of men whose integrity and capability can be depended on in such positions as to be able effectively to control the action of all authorities. In making a scheme of reform, I should be inclined to meddle as little as possible with institutions that exist and are understood, and to leave as much of the primary work of administration as possible to those local institutions, such as the Council of Elders in the villages and the Medjlisses at the Kaïmakamliks, but to sweep away or extensively modify the sham machinery of Courts of Appeal, Procureurs-Général, Inspectors of Justice, and other parodies on European institutions which are not adapted to existing circumstances, and to replace them by the appointment of such men as I have indicated to posts with any title that may be thought fit, but with the duties of examining into all complaints against the working or decisions of the local authorities, and with full executive power to correct injustice and to punish those who pervert justice.

Administrative autonomy is often spoken of as a remedy for the present troubles; but in considering this subject the peculiar circumstances of the case must not be lost sight of. The chief of these is the great local admixture of races. For instance, if the idea were entertained of forming an Armenian province in which the Armenians should have administrative autonomy, it would be impossible to fix any geographical limits to this province, which should not either include a very large proportion of races not Armenian, or else exclude a very large number of the Armenians themselves. Without confining the Armenian province to such very small limits as to be absurdly inadequate to the necessities of the case, there would always be included in it a large proportion of Turks and Kurds, who would be bitterly hostile to an administration composed principally of Armenians, and who, in conjunction with their fellows in race and religion outside the limits of the province, would be an element of disorder and danger with which the Armenians would be utterly unable to cope. The utmost of self-government that can be attained with success under the existing conditions of distribution of population would be, I think, the grouping together into communes of neighbouring villages of one prevailing nationality, whose local affairs should be transacted by Mudirs and Councils of Elders chosen by the communes themselves, and with the privilege of having a representative on the Governor-General's Council; but the Governor-General and his Central Government must be representative of all the races of the province, not of one alone, and must be the Agents of the Imperial Government, not of a local majority. Into this Central Provincial Government, however, the men of character and integrity I have spoken of must be introduced, so as to bar the way to corruption and iniquity.

This view is not antagonistic to that expressed in my despatch No. 49, Political, of the 13th December, 1880, about the possibility of the formation of a more or less autonomous Armenian province under Russian rule; for in that case there would be the strong hand of the Russian Government as central authority at first, and under it there would probably be a gradual filtering of the Moslem element from and the

Armenian element to the broad tract formed by Russian Armenia and the neighbouring regions of Turkish Armenia, and when this process had gone on for a sufficient time, to make the Armenian population sensibly homogeneous, whatever measure of autonomy Russia pleased might be given to the province.

As regards what Mr. Wahl says about the action of the Sheikh and the attitude of the Turkish troops towards him, from all I hear the Kurds committed terrible atrocities in Persia, even to the roasting of children over fires, and there is no doubt that the Turks, either from fear of the power of the Sheikh or from a secret sympathy with him, took no active steps to check his proceedings; but it is also certain that the Sheikh gave strict orders that the Christians were not to be molested, that they were, comparatively speaking, little injured, and that what injury was done them was done contrary to the Sheikh's own wish, by the disorderly tribes over whom he had only partial control.

The Persian Mission to demand satisfaction for the Sheikh's proceedings has as yet had no result. None of the authorities at Van have power to act in the matter, and things are at a standstill waiting for instructions from Constantinople. The Persian Envoy informed me that several proclamations of the Sheikh had fallen into Persian hands, in which he assumed royal style and titles.

I have spoken both to the Vali and the Mushir about the conduct of the officials and troops in Hakkiari, and they have both promised me to send orders for the abuses to be corrected; but so many promises have been made to me without any visible result, that I cannot help being sceptical about any good resulting from these promises also.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

Extracts from Letters received from Rev. R. Wahl.

Kochannes, December 8, 1880.

I BEG to implore you, in the name of the down-trodden, poor Nestorians, who, though starved and stricken with sickness in alarming proportions in nearly every village and every house, have to endure unheard-of oppressions, exactions, and ill-treatment from Turkish officials and soldiers on the one hand, and on the other are left unprotected against repeated robberies from the Kurds. The authorities at Van and Bashkala are pocketing all the money devoted by the Government for the sustenance of the soldiers, and let the poor soldiers, like hungry lions, loose upon these poor villagers, to make them carry heavy burdens for great distances without any remuneration whatever, and to exact from them large numbers of cattle. These soldiers, having once been let loose, know no ends in their exactions and ill-treatment; *e.g.*, in a very small village they demanded thirty head of cattle, and on being refused they broke the shoulders of the Headman of the village. . . . .

But it is not one case, or two, or three cases that induced me to write to you, it is almost a daily occurrence; to-day in this village, and to-morrow in that; one day the transportation of wood to Bashkala, or bringing of provisions from Van, is demanded; another day, cattle, wheat, &c., is exacted, and is threatening the very existence of the people. . . . . Since my coming here the Kurds have carried off at different times over 800 sheep. In some cases it could be pointed out where the booty was; but there is nothing done by the authorities, either to recover the booty or to punish the culprit. . . . .

The Patriarch's house here is in great poverty. I had to go as far as Jaugyr Aga's village (near the frontier) in search of wheat for my family, and what horrible scenes did I not witness there. The Sheikh is permitted to make war, to gather soldiers, to burn villages, and to do everything almost in the very face of the Turkish soldiers; though the soldiers could easily have hindered this chapter of horrors, where I have partly been an eye-witness.

Kochannes, December 27, 1880.

Two weeks ago I sent you a letter clearly stating how the Government officials at Bashkala and Julimerig—by their direct oppression on the one hand, and on the other through their conniving at the repeated robberies of the Kurds—are threatening the very existence of the starved and poverty-stricken people. It is a matter of fact, that the number of Nestorian villages is diminishing; and again, the numbers of the

people and the amount of property in the rest are decreasing, though the Nestorians are a healthy and chaste race. . . . .

Of the many wrongs committed I beg to specify a few. As long as the roads are open, that is, the greater part of the year, the villagers are over-burdened with orders to bring provisions from Van and other places for the military at Bashkala, Julimerig, or Gawar. Thus a few soldiers will come to a small village, and will carry off all the able-bodied men for that purpose without previous notice, or order them to carry wood for the military at one of the said places, without any remuneration whatever; . . . . and these poor villagers are made to support the Turkish army, and are hardly left time enough to provide bread for their families and themselves.

But this is not yet the worst; the very provisions that are destined for the soldiers are only partly sent, and the soldiers are told to go in the winter to the Nestorian villages, and to demand so many head of cattle, so much wheat, &c., and if not complied with they beat the poor people, and carry off all they (the people) have provided for the winter.

No. 46.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 141.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 25, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches from the Acting Consul-General at Beyrout and Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Damascus respecting the recent disturbances in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 46.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Mr. St. John.

(No. 9.)
Sir, *Beyrout, February* 12, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that, at the request of Mr. Vice-Consul Jago, I telegraphed to you on the 2nd instant that, in consequence of a serious attack made by the Druses upon a Moslem village in the plains of the Hauran to avenge certain murders, extensive and urgent military preparations were being made by the authorities for a campaign against the Druse mountain in the Hauran.

Since then I have not heard of any active movement against the Druses having taken place, although the military preparations continue. I am informed, however, that the Vali has appointed a Commission at Damascus, which is to proceed to the Druse district and negotiate for the surrender of the persons who were guilty of the attack on the Moslem village of the plains. Should the Druses refuse to comply with the requests of the Commission, the authorities are determined to attack them and bring them to subjection. For this purpose the Vali has called out the Redifs from several of the districts of Syria. He has already six battalions of troops in the Hauran, and he hopes shortly to send there twelve more. I have no doubt that Mr. Vice-Consul Jago will report to you full details in reference to these matters.

Since the breaking out of the Druse disturbance frightful accounts of atrocities committed by the Druses have appeared in the local journals, as well as in the official newspaper. The Druses are accused of slaughtering and cutting to pieces young children, of violating women, and of killing them afterwards by blowing them up internally with cotton saturated with gunpowder. Competent judges of the Druse character state that these reports are void of foundation, and have been got up with the object of exciting the Mussulman population against the Druses. It is a well-known fact that in all internecine wars the Druses have never touched women or very young children.

In the rebellion of 1841-42, and during the massacres of 1860, women were always respected by the Druses, although they were unsparing of the male sex. The acts of violation and the slaughter of women on those occasions were committed by the Mussulmans and Kurds. It is hardly likely that in the present instance the Druses would deviate from a custom to which they have hitherto always been known

to adhere. It is not improbable that in the late Druse attack some women may have been killed by accident, and this may have given rise to the reports in question.

These reports of atrocities have caused great indignation amongst the Druses of the Lebanon, who consider that an unfair advantage has been taken of their co-religionists in the Hauran. They affirm that the latter, being cut off by the troops, have no means of contradicting these reports, or even of knowing that they have been published. Such accounts do not seem to have had the effect of exciting the people generally against the Druses, and it is very possible that, with a large number of persons, they have tended to defeat the object for which they have been spread.

As far as I can gather, the intention of the Vali and Mushir is to encircle the Druse mountain (Jebel Druse) with troops, and attack the Druses from all sides should they refuse to submit. The Druses would in all probability take refuge in the natural fastness of the Ledja, but I am told that the authorities are endeavouring to gain over to their side by presents the Sloot Arabs who inhabit that territory, as well as the Rowala and other Bedouin tribes of the immediate neighbourhood of the Hauran.

Doubts seem to exist whether the Druses will surrender to the authorities the authors of the late disturbance, and it is hardly likely that they will easily be overcome by the troops, whom they have on former occasions resisted not unsuccessfully.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 46.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. St. John.

(No. 4.)

Sir, *Damascus, February* 13, 1881.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 2 of the 30th January respecting recent disturbances in the Hauran, I have the honour to report that troops have been brought to Damascus and the Hauran from Aleppo, Alexandretta, Beyrout, Hamah, and Nablûs, making the total force available for service against the Hauran Druses about 4,000 men, namely, seven battalions of Nizam, two batteries of artillery, and about 600 cavalry.

Certain robbers and murderers belonging to the Arab tribes of the Lejah, the scourge of the rural districts, have been released from prison, enlisted into the Government service, and dispatched to the Hauran both to act as guides to the intricacies of the Lejah and to seek, by the aid of their people, to hinder attempts of the Druzes to establish themselves in its fastnesses as in the former campaigns of 1839 and 1852, in the former of which the Egyptians lost 15,000 men in its mazes, and in the latter 6,000 Turkish troops were signally discomfited on its outskirts.

On the 31st January four bans of Redifs (1874 to 1877) amounting to ten battalions were called out "for special service," which, being interpreted by the people as a pretext for inveigling them into the ranks and then drafting them off for foreign service, resulted in 80 per cent. of them at once escaping from the city or otherwise concealing themselves.

The authorities have invoked the moral support of the Elders to overcome a repugnance born of the experiences of the Russo-Turkish war, and the fugitives themselves, without means of subsistence, are fain to deliver themselves up or to submit to easy capture.

The loss of life on the side of the Mussulman peasantry at Karak appears to have been 104 men and 1 woman, the latter said to have been killed accidentally. That of the Druzes is unknown, but is put at five or eight. The reports officially circulated here that fifteen girls were violated and murdered by the Druzes have been contradicted, and it is now alleged that none were murdered, but that they were violated. The truth among so many conflicting statements all emanating from Mussulman sources can only be arrived at by due inquiry, but as the Druzes, however, ferocious in warfare, have ever been remarkable for the great respect shown by them to females, the reports of murder and violation must, I venture to think, be received with caution, especially as no instance seems to be on record of a Druze even insulting a woman during their many and sanguinary wars of past years.

A Special Commission composed of military and civil officials has left for the Hauran to investigate all the circumstances of the case, and to demand, supported by the military, the delivery of the accused for trial and judgment, failing which force will be used, and the subjugation of the population of the Druze mountain of the

Hauran accomplished once and for all; a task capable of easy execution according to the opinion of the military and civil authorities.

The Druze Chiefs, save Shibly-el-Atrash, a hotheaded Sheikh of one of their most powerful clans, who joined in the attack upon Karak with several hundred men to avenge the murder of two Druzes who had gone thither to sell tobacco, disclaim all participation in the matter, and promise, moreover, I believe, to submit to the decision of any just and impartial Commission. I am afraid, however, that a Commission of Damascus officials will not inspire them with sufficient confidence, as their complaints have long been that while murders of Druzes have been left unredressed by the authorities, they have been shot down without mercy whenever they have sought to protect themselves.

Akiff Pasha, General of Brigade, Military Commandant of Hamah, and the only Turkish official possessing acquaintance with the Hauran, has been appointed Civil Governor of this sub-province in the place of Salih Effendi, whose failure to redress the murder of the two Druzes aroused the vengeful passions of their people and brought about the present catastrophe.

The Local Treasury being drained by demands from Constantinople, the troops will be obliged in some measures to eke out their subsistence at the expense of the villagers whose lives they have gone to protect, and whose means to that end will not be increased by the petty perquisitions of great numbers of Damascene Kurds, the chief component element of the Syrian gendarmerie and police, and who, as irregulars or private adventurers, have gone to the Hauran in the hopes of plunder and to gratify their hereditary animosity against the Druzes whenever military operations should place the latter at a disadvantage.

Two hundred horses have been levied upon the rich Damascenes as a voluntary gift to Government, and 500 camels in like manner upon the Hauran peasantry for transport services.

Precautions taken by the authorities to prevent reinforcements reaching the Druzes from their co-religionists in Lebanon, from their colonies in and near Damascus, around Mount Hermon, and at Safet, will probably be successful, the more so as of late years little practical sympathy has been shown by these various communities towards each other in their local difficulties, arising partly from the subjection of the latter to the Government, and partly from the position of isolation they stand in towards the various sects and tribes among whom they dwell, and by whom they are both feared and disliked.

The Druzes of the Jebel Druze Hauran, whose fighting force I estimate at between 5,000 and 7,000 men, have now to elect between surrendering the accused (a measure opposed to their traditions and customs) and submitting to conditions which will extinguish the independence they have now enjoyed since when, 250 years ago, they migrated from Lebanon and established themselves by the force of their swords as masters of the Jebel Hauran, and as the only barriers against the Bedouin hordes and wild Arab tribes who ruled and devastated these frontier lands to within twenty years ago, and defying the authorities by, as of yore, throwing themselves into the rocky ravines and labyrinths of the Lejah, the physical difficulties of which have presented such insurmountable obstacles in past times.

My belief is that they will fight the army of 4,000 men which, at great expense, the authorities have been able to draw together from all parts of the circumscription of the 5th Army Corps (Arabistan), leaving all other stations practically denuded of other than the Redifs, who are now being hastily and with difficulty collected.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 47.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 146.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 28, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to state that on the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 139 of the 25th instant, I at once telegraphed to the Acting British Consul-General at Beyrout for information in regard to the disturbances reported to have taken place there. From Mr. Dickson's reply it appears that a collision between Mahommedans and Christians occurred at Beyrout on the 19th instant, resulting in the death of two Christians and one Mahommedan women. Eleven persons were

wounded. Mr. Dickson adds that tranquillity has been restored, and that he had already reported the matter by post.

I beg to inclose a paragraph which appeared in the "Constantinople Messenger" of the 25th instant on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Extract from the "Constantinople Messenger" of February 25, 1881.

IN the riot which took place a few days ago at Beyrout the number of the slain was even less considerable than we stated. On the Christian side two men and one woman were killed, while the loss on the Mahommedan side was limited to one woman and a few wounded. Although the parties to the conflict ranged themselves for the fight according to their respective creeds, the question at issue was not one of faith but of tobacco.

No. 48.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 164.) *Constantinople, March 7, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Erzeroum, reporting upon the general state of the vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 48.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 3. Political.) *Erzeroum, February 18, 1881.*

Sir,

I BEG to inform you that the Sub-Committee for relief of the sufferers by famine in this vilayet, consisting of M. La Coote, French Consul, Mr. Cole, American missionary, Mr. Balarian, merchant of this city, and myself, have received, through the Ottoman Bank, £ T. 900 for distribution.

According to accounts received from Alashgert, the people are in many villages suffering greatly, and some illness is reported by the member of the Armenian Sub-Committee, stationed at Toprak-Kaleh. A deputation from the village of Lower Tahir-Hodja in the Lower Passin came to Erzeroum about a fortnight ago, and reported that many in that village had absolutely nothing to live on. The American missionaries immediately sent off a teacher in company with an agent of the Armenian Committee to investigate the truth, and a letter was received yesterday to the effect that not only in that village, but in several others in the same district, great scarcity prevailed; that many people were ill from want of proper nourishment, and that two children at Lower Tahir-Hodja had died from starvation; bands of hungry men are also described as perambulating the country in search of charity. The districts of Terkman and Shusha, to the south between the Palentoken Mountains and Chanous, inhabited principally by Kurds, are said to be in a worse state even than Alashgert.

It is difficult at present to form an opinion, but, with regard to the Lower Passin, from the amount of grain which I saw growing in that district last summer and from the amount of the tithe, I cannot help thinking that the people are trying to make their case appear worse than it really is. At the same time, I fully believe that in some villages there is considerable poverty.

In the Sandjak of Bayazid there is still cause for anxiety. In the first place, the whole of the tithes are being exported to Van for the sustennnce of the Turkish troops concentrated there; and, secondly, the people are so impoverished by the extortions of the Mutessarif that they have nothing left to sell, and therefore cannot buy. The dearth is, in fact, more of money than of grain, which, being at the moderate price of £ T. 2½ the somar of Erzeroum, cannot be so very scarce. From Shusha and Terkman it is almost impossible to get reliable information, the main of the villages being unapproachable at this season. Letters received from Mardin by the missionaries show the existence of considerable distress. They have a relief list there numbering 1,100 souls at this moment. In Erzeroum we have had no occasion up to the present time of opening our stores of flour, but we shall evidently be compelled to do so very shortly.

Nevertheless, the general prospect is undoubtedly good. For a month past the country has been visited with heavy falls of snow, which the comparative warmth of the temperature has kept at a melting state during the daytime. This perpetual snowing and melting is so beneficial to the crop sowed last autumn and to the soil generally that, in the eyes of the country people, an excellent harvest is already secured. Not only does the price of flour show no tendency to rise, but it has actually fallen to 8 piastres the batman (6 okes), and a further fall in prices is confidently expected. I believe, therefore, if help be afforded in the sowing season to those villages which are worst off, that, with a good harvest, the country will find itself next autumn in a more prosperous condition than at any time since the war. In Alashgert the Armenian Committee has ordered some distribution to be made, and has already bought 2,000 kilehs of grain to assist the spring sowing. A distribution has also been given to the Christians by an Armenian Bishop, who came from Etchmiadzin expressly for the purpose.

The efforts of the Turkish Government to prepare for war are severely felt in the vilayet, where every means of obtaining money is being resorted to. The payment of all officials has been stopped, and the sheep tax for the present year put up to auction. Trade is almost at a stand-still, buyers are found with difficulty, and some of the shops hardly care to open. This general stagnation, throwing a large number of people out of employment, increases the poverty and distress in the town. The demands made upon the Executive fall in reality upon the people, from whom money is being extorted on every possible pretext.

I inclose a list of complaints made out by the inhabitants of the Bayazid Sandjak, and forwarded by the Bishop of Utch-Kilisseh to the Bishop here. The original list contained other charges, which I have already reported to you in my despatch No. 25, Political, of the 24th December, 1880, as well as in my despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador of the 20th January, 1881, of which I forwarded you a copy. This list is little more than an exposure of the various schemes invented by the Mutessarif to enable him to comply with the incessant demands for money, and at the same time to improve the condition of his own finances. To prevent his misdeeds from coming to light, the Mutessarif causes the persons of Armenians leaving the sandjak to be searched, and it is, therefore, with some difficulty that papers containing complaints can be got through. In fact, the original document from which my inclosure is translated was brought to Erzeroum concealed in the boot of the bearer.

I am endeavouring at this moment to persuade my colleagues to join with me in making a representation to the Vali on the subject, but I can hardly hope for much success. The Russian Consul-General is shortly leaving, and consequently takes very little interest in local matters.

His successor, Colonel Danet, an officer on the staff of the Russian army, has not yet arrived. The French Consul is also leaving, having received letters on the 13th instant directly from the Foreign Office at Paris transferring him to Batoum. While there, I understand, he will be employed on a mission of a confidential nature. His orders are to start as soon as possible, without waiting for his successor, and his present intention is to accompany the Russian Consul, M. Obermüller, as far as Tiflis.

The Persian Consul-General, who has already remonstrated here on the conduct of the Mutessarif without obtaining any satisfaction, and who has also written very strongly to his own Government on the matter, has signified his perfect readiness to co-operate with me in any manner I may think fit.

Letters received by the American missionaries from Keghi, dated 10th January, report the opening of two Armenian schools in the town, and of several others in the district.

The Cadi of Keghi, having adjudged fifteen of the disputed villages to belong to the Beys, the latter immediately set about collecting the land tax from the villagers, who are mostly Kurds. In this matter the two Ismails were, as usual, well to the front, and one of them called in a noted robber, known as the Koke Agha, to his assistance, with eighty armed men.

The same informant remarks that the security of the inhabitants is less than before the formation of the nahiés. A certain Bey of Kerboz, who is assistant Mudir of his commune, is at the same time secret Chief of a band of marauders, and consequently, though many robberies have been committed, not a single offender has been forwarded to the Caza for punishment.

I am happy to inform you that the hookook (civil) section of the Court of First Instance here has got into good hands. I believe Shameddin Bey, the President, had arrived from Constantinople before you left. He is a very liberal-minded man, has a good knowledge of law, and a strong sense of equity. The reforms which he has introduced into this Court in the short space of six months, single-handed and unsupported, show how quickly a better state of things might be produced by the introduction into the higher branches of the Administration of a few men of the same stamp.

Fikri Pasha, the Vali of the newly-created Vilayet of the Dersim, has, I understand, proceeded to his post viâ Erzinjan.

Hamdi Bey, Colonel of Gendarmerie, has left Erzeroum, having exchanged places with Colonel Hassan Bey, holding the same appointment at Janina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 48.

Additional Charges preferred by the Christian Inhabitants of the Sandjak of Bayazid against the Mutessarif.

(Translation.)

THE Sublime Porte and the Government of Erzeroum ordered the formation of a Committee at Bayazid to examine into the massacre and other occurrences which happened at that place during the war, but the Mutessarif, writing to the Vali that such a Commission would be injurious to the interests of the country, has never carried out the order.

2. The author of this massacre was a certain Sherif Effendi. This man is at present President of the Committee of Collection of Taxes. Others who were his companions have been retained as members of the Government of the sandjak.

3. Many villages hold receipts for supplies furnished during the war, and the Government ordered these receipts to be taken in lieu of taxes. The Mutessarif has never accepted them.

4. Notwithstanding the depreciation of the metallic currency, the Government ordered that for arrears of taxes the beshlik should retain the value of 5 piastres. In collecting these arrears, however, the Mutessarif accepted the beshlik at 2½ piastres until very lately, when he feared that the matter would come to light.

5. When in 1878 the people emigrated the Government ordered those who remained to reap the crop, and, taking the half, to keep the rest for the others when they should return. The Mutessarif gave to those who first returned a small portion of grain, taking receipts. He now however requests that it be restored, on the presumption that it was only lent. To those who returned later he has not given any grain whatever. Kara-Kilisseh, Hamad, and Yonjalu are among those villages from which grain is thus demanded.

6. In 1878, 1879, and 1880 the villagers collected their tithes and took them to Bayazid. Here the officials remeasured them, using larger measures, and found the quantity insufficient. On this account the Mutessarif now demands from Alashgerd alone £T. 700.

7. When the Government ordered the people last year to bring their tithes to Bayazid many were unable, their oxen having died during the previous winter from want of forage; whereupon the Mutessarif forcibly collected from the villagers either money or wheat (at the rate of 2 godes per somar) to pay for the hire of transport. Those who did carry their tithes to Bayazid demanded payment, but the Mutessarif refused it.

8. During the past autumn the Government has been transporting the tithe of Alashgerd to Van and Bitlis. The people were to have been forced to carry it, but not being able, they have been made to pay for the transport at the rate of £T. 8 for every 15 somars transported. No reduction has been made in the taxes on this account.

9. This autumn the Mutessarif assessed the hay tax at 6 paras the oke, or for each araba 35 piastres, while at the time the price of an araba of hay was not more than 20 piastres. Many petitions were forwarded to the Mutessarif on this matter, but they were not listened to.

No. 49.

Mr Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 165.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 7, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 146 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of Mr. Acting Consul-General Dickson's Report in regard to recent disturbances at Beyrout.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Mr. St. John.

(No. 10.)
Sir, *Beyrout, February 17, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report that on Sunday evening, the 13th instant, a somewhat serious disturbance occurred in Beyrout between Moslems and Christians. The following are the facts of the case as far as I can gather:—

On the 11th instant a personal quarrel took place between a Moslem and a Christian on the outskirts of Beyrout, resulting in the Moslem being severely beaten. The Moslems of the neighbourhood thereupon collected in considerable numbers, and during night rudely broke into several Christian houses of the quarter, and ended by cruelly maltreating a Christian young man in revenge. The matter thus ended for the time being, but the Moslems seem to have been much excited, and to have prepared themselves for an opportunity to renew the quarrel with the Christians.

On the 13th instant some Moslem and Christian boys were playing in another quarter of the town called the Mazra, when a quarrel arose between them. A Christian, who happened to be on the spot, interfered to separate those who were fighting, but he was set upon by three or four young Moslems, who came up at the time, and severely beaten with sticks, and then stabbed. He died almost immediately.

As soon as the alarm was given, large numbers of persons of both sects quickly collected on the spot, and a severe conflict ensued between Moslems and Christians, in which swords and fire-arms were used, and the result was two more killed, one Moslem (a woman) and one Christian. Eight were wounded, of which five were Christians and three Moslems. The Moslems who took part in the disturbance were considerably more than the Christians, the former numbering about 100, and the latter thirty. The quarrel took place in a Christian quarter of the town, the Mazra.

Much alarm prevailed in the town at the time, and the Moslems immediately closed their shops and went to their houses, and it is not improbable that the disturbance might have assumed serious proportions had not the police and military hastened to the spot. One of the young Christians who was killed belonged to the Lebanon village of Chousfat, situated at the foot of the mountain just opposite Beyrout, and on the news reaching the villagers that one of their number was killed, they immediately prepared to descend to Beyrout and take revenge on the Moslems. Not a small number of Druzes, also of the same village, were ready to join with the Christians. Timely measures, however, taken by Rustem Pasha, prevented this. He immediately dispatched troops to take possession of the roads that led from the village in question to Beyrout, and thus cut off all communication with the town until order was restored.

Several persons of both sects who took part in this disturbance have been arrested and now await their trial, and the Wali, Hamdi Pasha, has sent from Damascus the Inspector of Justice and the Prosecutor-General to hold an investigation into the matter and punish the guilty. His Highness has also dismissed the Public Prosecutor of Beyrout and the present Acting Governor for incapacity, and has appointed Tayar Pasha, a military officer, as Acting Governor of Beyrout.

This incident has caused much sensation amongst the Christians of Beyrout, as showing the feeling that exists towards them on the part of the Moslems, but I am happy to be able to state that at present tranquillity reigns once more.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 50.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 100.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 7, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of an interesting despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond relative to the land question in that vilayet. I have informed Mr. Biliotti that in the present state of affairs at Constantinople it would be useless to urge on the Porte to send special Commissioners to examine into and report on the question of the titles to landed property. It may be possible to do so later when the Porte is more disposed to give attention to internal affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 9.)
Sir, *Trebizond, February 23, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, some time since, the Christian tenants of the district of Ordoo addressed a petition to the Governor-General, begging for an inquiry into the motives of complaint which they have against the Beys. To the Vali's stringent orders to examine the matter, the authorities of Ordoo replied that the Christians, having been summoned before the Courts of Justice, had stated to have no claims against the landlords, and that the mention of their having, in their petition, was a mistake on the part of the Turkish scribe.

It was on that occasion that the Governor-General, as I incidentally reported in my despatch No. 27, had the idea (which, however, he did not carry out) to imprison the plaintiffs as slanderers in order to compel them to bring forward their claims. However, the answer of the authorities of Ordoo does not seem to be in conformity with the true state of things, for I have in my possession a letter addressed to the only European resident of Ordoo, under date of the 16th ultimo, and bearing the signatures of several inhabitants of the nahiés of Hapsamané, Boulamon, and Perchembé, in which they state that, as they cannot obtain a hearing of their case, they beg that the fact should be brought by him to the notice of competent authorities.

Towards the beginning of this month four delegates from the Nahié of Hapsamané, having obtained that the principal Bey of their nahié should be summoned to Trebizond, appeared before the Court of Justice of this town, and were told that their claim could not be entertained before it was decided in the first instance at Ordoo.

Being convinced that justice could not be obtained from the Judicial Courts now in that district, Apik Effendi, the Judicial Inspector of the vilayet, applied nearly three weeks ago for permission from the Minister of Justice to proceed himself to Ordoo, and watch the proceedings, but hitherto no answer has been returned.

I beg leave to point out that, in my humble opinion, even the presence of Apik Effendi at Ordoo will lead to no satisfactory result, for the question at issue is, not the claim of a few individuals against others, but nothing less than the very complicated land question which exists between landlords and tenants in this vilayet.

The presence of the Judicial Inspector is, no doubt, indispensable, but he should be accompanied by special officials from Constantinople, who, under the supervision of Yussuf Pasha and Serkis Effendi, the Commissioners for reforms in this province, should examine and decide on the merits of the titles of the land in contestation; and their action should not be limited to Ordoo, but should extend to all the districts in the vilayet which are affected by the land question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 51.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 177.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 10, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 165 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch from Acting Consul-General Dickson respecting the late disturbances at Beyrout.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 11.)
Sir, *Beyrout, February 28, 1881.*

YESTERDAY I had the honour to receive your Excellency's telegram of the 26th instant, requesting me to telegraph to you any information I may have had on the riot that had taken place in Beyrout lately. In reply I had the honour to telegraph to your Excellency that on Sunday evening, the 13th instant, a quarrel had occurred in Beyrout between Moslems and Christians; that two Christians and one Moslem (a woman) had been killed, and that eleven persons altogether were wounded. I added that tranquillity had been restored, and that I had already transmitted the details of this affair by post.

Since writing my despatch No. 10 of the 17th instant, in which I reported that the number of wounded was eight, I have been informed that the exact number of persons that have received injuries in this quarrel amounts to eleven, the extra three being Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 52.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 179.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 10, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 171 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a further despatch from Acting Consul-General Dickson respecting the disturbances in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 12.)
Sir, *Beyrout, February 28, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires No. 9 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that up to the present time nothing further has been done by the authorities to bring the Druzes of the Hauran to subjection. The Vali continues to call out the Redifs, but they are collected with difficulty. The number of troops that at present have assembled in the Hauran amount to about 5,000. I am informed, however, that his Highness will defer attacking the Druzes until he has 10,000 men in the field. The gathering together of such a large force has given rise to various surmises as to the intentions of the Vali, and it is rumoured that foreign service, as well as a campaign against the Druzes may be the object.

I understand that the Druzes are inclined to come to a peaceable settlement of their differences with the authorities, and for this purpose are willing to submit to the decision of a Commission appointed to investigate the whole question. They, how-

ever, stipulate as the conditions of their doing so, that the Commission should be a mixed one, that is, composed of Druzes and Moslems; that none of the members should consist of Government officials, or belong to any of the Damascus Tribunals, but that they should be independent persons known to be of a just and impartial character.

It is doubtful whether the authorities will accede to these requests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 53.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 202.)
Constantinople, March 17, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the subject of Armenian plots and the preparations which Sheikh Obeidullah is reported to be making for a fresh rising.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 53.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 8. Confidential.)
Van, February 15, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE received some fresh information about the doings of the Russian Armenians. Two or three days ago Mr. Barnum, the American missionary, called on me and said that he had just received a visit from two Armenians of Tiflis who were about to return thither viâ Persia, and offered to take letters to the missionaries in Persia. These men were extremely frank, and said that they had been sent here by their Committees in Tiflis to stir up the Armenians to revolt against the Turks, and that there were 150,000 men in Russian territory ready to cross the frontier to give assistance. They said the Russian Government had encouraged them, and had sold them arms for a quarter of the cost price.

Mr. Barnum asked them if they were satisfied with their lot under Russian government, and would be willing to see all Armenia in Russian hands. They replied that if they thought that such would be the result they would not move in the matter at all, but that the Russian Government had promised them autonomy.

Mr. Barnum then asked them how they had found the attitude of the people. They said they had found the country people much more ready to rise than the people of the city. This agrees with what I have always understood to be the feeling of the people. As a matter of fact, the Armenians of the city have very little to complain of, and look to their ease and the safety of their property, while the country people suffer from Kurds and Government officials and troops, and would be glad of any event to change their condition. The men told Mr. Barnum that all preparations had been made to come to the assistance of the Turkish Armenians in the autumn, as when Sheikh Obeidullah first began to move it was supposed that he was coming down to massacre the Christians, but that when it was seen where he was really going, the movement was postponed. They thought, however, something would certainly be done in the spring. But it must be remarked that these men had had no communication with their Chiefs in Tiflis for some time, and that the views of the latter might have changed on finding the Sheikh was not attacking the Christians. The assistance of the Russian Government may also only have been promised in view of a danger of massacre. But the men said the Russian Armenians had gone to such expense and trouble that they were sure they would not allow it to be all wasted. They also said that Major Kumsaragan, the Russian Vice-Consul here, was strongly in favour of their plans.

If the Sheikh should rise again it may be made the signal for movement among the Armenians also, and there seems to be very little doubt that he is making great preparations for a fresh rising in the spring. From all sides reports come in of drilling among the Kurds, and it is said that the Sheikh is paying his troops, giving 2 liras

a-month to the officers, and a medjidié a-month to the men. The Turkish authorities, however, profess to place no credit in these reports of preparations.

The Persian Envoy, Mirza Riza Khan, has left Van to return to Persia. He told me himself that no arrangement had been come to as regards the demands he had come here to make, but common report says that the Turkish Government has promised to pay compensation to the Persians for the damage done by the Kurds. The Vali told me that the Envoy had been recalled at the request of the Turkish authorities, because he was writing and spreading false reports as regards fresh preparations making by the Sheikh for rising. But as I have previously said, there is a large body of evidence to show that the Sheikh is really making these preparations in spite of the incredulity of the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 54.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 203.)
Constantinople, March 17, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond relative to the movement among the Armenians, and the encouragement said to be given to it by Russia. I forward to your Lordship, by this messenger, a despatch from Captain Clayton on the same subject, and venture to call your Lordship's attention to the coincidence of these two Reports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Consul Billiotti to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 11.)
Trebizond, March 5, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to inform your Excellency, in the latter part of my despatch No. 53 of the 5th November last, of the formation at Tiflis of a Central Armenian Committee for promoting national advancement, or rather emancipation.

I now understand that, besides the above, there are several secret societies tending to the same object, and that they have agents at Trebizond, and especially in Armenia, who seem to be displaying great activity.

There are circumstances which induce me to believe that Russia is far from being a stranger to the movement which is likely to take place, in some form or other, at the most opportune moment.

A few months ago M. Obermüller, the Russian Consul at Erzeroum, with whom I am personally acquainted since some years, had occasion to call at Trebizond. In conversation he stated to me, not as a secret, that his subordinate, the Vice-Consul at Van, who is an Armenian and a Captain in the Russian army, was stirring up his co-religionists, not only in his Vice-Consular district, but also beyond its limits, in order to bring about complications in Armenia, and that as he did not approve of these proceedings, he had reported at St. Petersburgh the conduct of his subordinate. The result of the step taken by M. Obermüller was his being shortly after placed himself *en disponibilité*, and a Colonel Denuet appointed in his room.

Five or six months since, the Russian Consul at Bosna-Serai was nominated to the post of Trebizond, which was vacant; but shortly after the above-mentioned incident, which took place about three months ago, he was directed to proceed to Rustchuk, and M. Belotsercovetz, the titular of that post, to fill up that of Trebizond. It would appear that M. Belotsercovetz, who is soon expected here, is a pupil of General Ignatieff. He formerly was Dragoman at the Embassy, was subsequently appointed Consul at Rustchuk, and was Governor of Toultcha during the Russian occupation. He seems to have been one of the most active agents at the time of the Bulgarian insurrection.

M. Tcharkowski, the First Russian Chancellier at Trebizond, of whom I made mention in my fore-mentioned despatch, has lately departed for Tiflis, and the length of his stay there is not known.

I am strongly convinced that Russia is preparing the ground in the provinces bordering on the Government of the Caucasus for an occupation, the pretext for which cannot be difficult to find.

Such is also the general feeling in this vilayet, not only among Christians, but also among Mussulmans.

The populations consider that a Russian occupation is an event which may be accelerated or delayed by circumstances, but which is inevitable.

Armenians are in hopes that Russia will promote their national aspirations, which is more than doubtful, even in the minds of some of them. Whatever may be the feelings of Greeks, they will always see with pleasure the Turks submitted to a Christian nation. Mussulmans themselves do not seem inclined to object to any alteration that may bring about a change in their present condition.

However, Russia is not the Power to which either of these races, especially Turks, would have given the preference.

Mussulmans not only would have willingly accepted, but would have also materially co-operated to establish, British rule in this part of Anatolia.

They apprehend that Russia may, in the long run, interfere with their religion, and know that they have nothing of the kind to fear on the part of Great Britain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 55.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 204.)
Constantinople, March 17, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, forwarding a memorial from the Mussulman inhabitants of the Nahié of Keshab, in the district of Kerassond, relative to the state of affairs in that district, and stating the steps he has taken in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 55.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 10.)
Trebizond, February 28, 1881.

Sir,

SOME time ago a memorial was sent to me, signed by three Mussulmans of the villages of Kash Dibi, Tépé-Keui, and Kara Ishak, on behalf of the inhabitants of the Nahié of Keshab, in the district of Kerassond.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of this memorial, which I have communicated to the Governor-General for his information.

Mention is especially made of the claims in which no protection was obtained from the local authorities.

As previously reported by me, the Kaïmakam of Kerassond having proceeded to Constantinople at the request of Sirri Pasha to lay before the Porte the condition of his district, it was only on his return, a few days ago, that the Governor-General was enabled to hand to that functionary the memorial in question for inquiring into the alleged facts.

Abdullah Bey, the Acting Governor of Kerassond, being a native, who is more or less connected with native oppressors, the care of investigating the cases could not be confided to him.

In a conversation which I had with the Kaïmakam of Kerassond before his departure from Trebizond for his post, I have gathered that the Porte, though expressing its strong willingness to put an end to the anarchy which prevails here, and having instructed the Governor-General, as well as the Kaïmakam in question, to use their best endeavours in order to arrive at this result, has not yet adopted any measure that may enable them to cope advantageously with the difficulty.

It would seem that the question is still under consideration at the Council of State, but that no final decision has yet been taken.

The inclosed memorial bears out the fact that, whatever the causes may be, the present Courts of Justice are inadequate to secure safety in this province, and that to attain this end some other measure should be resorted to.

This consideration induced me to express, at the end of my despatch No. 61 of the 27th December last, the opinion that discretionary powers should be granted to the Vali to summarily deal with notorious miscreants. But in making use of the word exile I conveyed, perhaps, more than the idea which I intended to express.

The temporary removal of the perturbators of the public peace from their respective districts to some other part of the vilayet would be sufficient to meet the exigencies of the present state of affairs in my Consular district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

P.S.—As my Turkish scribe was about to transcribe the memorial, part of it was burnt by accident. I can therefore only send copy of those paragraphs which have been spared by the fire. Some time since a complete copy of this document was handed by me to the Governor-General.

A. B.

Inclosure 2 in No. 55.

Memorial from the Mussulmans of Keshab to the British Consul at Trebizond.

(Translation.)

KEUNAZOGLOO MEHMED, and his brother, Douran Ahmed, of the village of Tépé-Keui, and their accomplices, Imamogloo Ismaïl, Roussoulogloo Osman, and Medjalogloo Mustafa, of the village of Djenkeran, and Kossopogloo Eumer, of the village of Husukief—together, six individuals.

Some years since the above-mentioned Mehmed and Douran Ahmed, together with their accomplices, perpetrated in our nahié all kind of outrages against Mussulmans and non-Mussulmans, and, though several of their victims were prevented by fear to accuse them, the complaints of those who did so remained without result owing to the brigands being at large.

However, the hope that reforms were to be introduced lately induced several inhabitants to present fresh petitions against the forementioned malefactors; but, as they have hitherto led to no result, we beg to submit some of the cases which were perpetrated, and for which petitions were presented.

1. Keunazogloo Mehmed and Douran Ahmed, Kossopogloo Eumer and Medjalogloo Mustafa, on one occasion broke at night into the house of Yazidjiogloo Emin, at the village of Tépé-Keui, and tore from his wife's head the gold pieces she was wearing. On another occasion they cut down his hazel-nut trees, which produced 10 cwt. of fruit. On the third time they again forcibly entered his house and robbed him of his pistol; and, lastly, they carried off his horse, of a value of 15*l.* He has hitherto obtained no redress, though he submitted his case by petition.

2. Two months previous to the present date, the above-mentioned Keunazogloo Mehmed and his wife so severely beat the child, 12 years old, of Aninassibogloo Mehmed Ago, of the village of Tépé-Keui, in consequence of a question relating to a cow, that he had a hernia; and, though the fact was proved by the declaration of the surgeon, and a complaint was lodged, no satisfaction was obtained.

3. Mehmed, Douran, Imamogloo Ismaïl, and Kossopogloo Eumer having broken into the house of Eumerogloo Husni, so ill-treated him and his son, that the former had his arm broken, and the second was confined to bed for two months. Husni's house was also plundered, but his petition to obtain redress was not taken into consideration.

4. Nazirogloo Suleiman, of the village of Emkessan, was returning from the army on leave for change of air, when he met, at a place called Yol Aghzi, the above-mentioned individuals, who thrashed him and deprived him of his "teskéré." Having managed to escape from their hands, he was shot at, but not hit; but, as he was no longer in possession of his "teskéré" as Redif, he was considered to be a deserter, and compelled to serve for a term of a year and a half beyond his time.

5. The same individuals plundered the house of Demirogloo Mustafa, of the village of Emkessan, and severely beat and outraged his wife.

6. Mehmed Ali, the nephew of Tshaouch Hassan Ali Hassan, of the village of Kash Dibi, was thrashed by them, and the silver-ornamented pistol of Hassan

Tshaouch wrested from the hands of his nephew, who died in consequence of the ill-treatment he had received. The pistol is still in the hands of Mehmed and Douran, notwithstanding that Hassan Tshaouch applied by petition to the authorities.

7. The said Douran and Ahmed sold to Elkeniliogloo Hassan Effendi, of the village of Kash Dibi, a field for 3,700 piastres, which they received, but the land not having been made over to the purchaser, he claimed the restitution of his money, and though a sentence was issued in his favour, he has hitherto been unable to obtain its execution, owing to Ahmed having absconded.

8. The aforesaid Mehmed and Douran Ahmed, and Imamogloo Ismail happening to fall in with Reïsogloo, of the village of Bairamdji, while he had a quarrel with his wife, they passed themselves off as belonging to the police, and, threatening to convey Reïsogloo to Kerassoud, extorted from him a watch and 200 piastres—a fact which is attested by the inhabitants of the village.

9. Omadjogloo Izet, of the village of Bairamdji, being a soldier, Mehmed and Douran extorted £ T. 8 from his wife, under the pretext of liberating her husband from the military service, and subsequently forcibly took from him other 150 piastres.

10. While fishing, Fizanforogloo Bilal, of the village of Surmenely, was seized by the same miscreants, who, after giving him 100 lashes under the feet, despoiled him of a gun, a pistol, and a cutlass. No petition was filed by him.

11. Indjeogloo Halil, of the village of Surmenely, having refused the request of Douran and Mehmed to enter their service, was so severely beaten by them that he was two months sick in bed.

12. Mehmed and Douran Ahmed forcibly took away from Mustafaogloo Mustafa, of the village of Kara Ishak, on his return from the army, a bond for 6,500 piastres which he had received for serving for another man. They compelled Mustafa's debtor to sell one of his fields to pay them, but hitherto Mustafa has not succeeded to recover from them a single para, though he presented a petition.

13. The forementioned miscreants carried off the unmarried young daughter of Hadji Ibrahimogloo Hassan, a merchant of the village of Houz-Keui, an outrage of which the local authorities were informed in due time, but no redress was obtained, owing to the ravishers having run away. Subsequently the neighbours of Hassan begged and obtained from them the restitution of the girl to her father.

14. The same individuals broke into the house of Zatogloo Hurshid, of the village Husukief, carried off his wife, whom they outraged, and so ill-treated the man as to leave him in a helpless condition.

15. They forcibly entered the house of Hadji Ahmedogloo Ahmed, in order to carry off a woman who was his guest, and though the neighbours, attracted by the noise, offered assistance, they were unable to rescue her from their hands.

16. It being winter, the miscreants in question were assembled in the house of Medjalogloo Mustafa, in the village of Djenkeran, when a poor Abazian emigrant knocked at the door and begged for bread for his children. The brigands shot at him, and wounded him so severely that he died a few days after. A petition was filed without result.

17. The beasts of burden and the horned cattle belonging to the often-mentioned individuals are fed by themon the crops of the Mussulman and non-Mussulman inhabitants of the village of Yol Aghzi, who thereby suffer an annual loss of 200 bushels of Indian corn. But the Christians do not dare to complain, owing to the notorious nefarious characters of the perpetrators of the damage.

18. Pachalioglou Veli Effendi, of the village of Kara Ishak, having filed a petition against them, they openly sent to inform him that they would take revenge, and, in fact, a month since they set fire to his house during the night. Veli Effendi's son, 15 years old, having walked out to call for help, they shot at him, but luckily the bullet passed through his breeches without hurting him. The neighbours succeeded in extinguishing the conflagration, but the miscreants escaped, and the petition presented against them led to no result.

19. A field of Douran Ahmed bordering on the public road in the village of Kush Dibi, he obstructed the passage, and is claiming £ T. 50 from the inhabitants for again allowing a free passage.

20. The forementioned malefactors lately broke into the house of the Greek priest of the village of Seraïdjik, and despoiled him of all his effects and money, the amount of which is to us unknown. They perpetrate every year outrages against the said priest and the Christian inhabitants of the village, who do not dare to apply to the authorities owing to the dread they have of the band of brigands, whose Chiefs

are Keunazogloo Mehmed and Douran Ahmed, and whose nefarious acts are of public notoriety.

21. Three years since they burnt to the ground about thirty houses, and the bazaar which had been erected by the Greek inhabitants of the village of Yol Aghzi.

22. The leaders in the outrages reported in the foregoing 21 paragraphs are the sons of Keunazogloo Mehmed and Douran Ahmed, who deserted during the last war; pardon was granted to the first, who was a Redif; and the second, who was a conscript, paid exemption-money. A merchant of Kerassoud named Bayazidzadé Emrullah Aga, who carries on extensive business in the Nahié of Keshab, and employs the brothers Keunazogloo as his agents for collecting the sums due to him by the inhabitants, protects them through his nephew, who is Chief Clerk at the "Bidayet" (Court of Justice). Owing to this motive the petitions lately presented by the inhabitants of Keshab against the miscreants in question remained without result. The poor peasants appeared in the Court of Justice, wherein the accused were also brought by the authorities. A single bail was accepted for them all, but after having been kept for a fortnight without their cases being heard, the peasants, three of them excepted, having no longer the means to live in the town, were compelled to return to their villages, and shortly after the brigands were allowed to depart.

If a secret or public inquiry is made by a functionary sent for the purpose from Constantinople, not only the forementioned cases, but four times as many, will be proved. But should our condition be not taken into consideration, as there is no security for property, honour, and life, nothing will remain for us but to remove to some other spot.

1*st Kianouni Evvel* (*December* 13, 1880).

No. 56.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 27.)

(No. 206.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 17, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van relative to the demand of the Government for repayment of the corn given last year in relief of the famine then prevailing, and pointing out the deplorable consequences which will ensue if this demand is carried out in the distressed condition of the country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 6. Political.)

Sir, *Van, February* 8, 1881.

YESTERDAY a deputation of villagers from the district of Khoshab (Mahmoudiyé) came to me saying that the Government was demanding from the villages in their district repayment of the corn given to them last year out of the Government stores to aid them in the famine then prevailing. They said that this last harvest was again very insufficient, and that they had no means of repaying at present the corn that had been given. They had been to the Government to beg that the demand for repayment might be postponed till the next harvest, when they hoped to be able to comply with it, but that they had received no favourable answer.

I know that this district is in a very bad condition, and I have this autumn and winter sent considerable aid to it from the funds put at my disposal by Lady Strangford, and I feel sure that the demand for repayment cannot be met without causing the greatest misery. I therefore called on the Vali and spoke to him on the subject, pointing out that in certain districts in Asia Minor which had suffered from locusts taxes had been remitted, and suggesting that it would be most desirable that some regard should be had to the condition of the districts in this neighbourhood where famine had prevailed extensively. His Excellency replied that he was aware of the distressed condition of the districts, but that strict orders had been received from Constantinople to make the demand for repayment, and that it must be done, but that whether any repayment of the corn could be actually obtained was a different matter.

It is commonly rumoured that troops will be sent round to the villages to collect taxes and arrears, and I fear that, under the circumstances, such a course is only too likely to be pursued, and in such a case the ill-treatment, exaction, and misery the poor people will have to undergo will be terrible. Even now complaints come in from all sides of the conduct of troops on the march, and if they are let loose with orders to collect money or produce by fair means or foul, a simple reign of terror may be expected.

It is also reported, on apparently good authority, that the sheep-tax is to be sold at once to obtain some ready money.

I need hardly say that at present any idea of reform is altogether shelved. Every such object is merged in the all-absorbing struggle to get money, and in the anxiety caused by the affairs of Sheikh Obeydullah. Of the Sheikh's proceedings there is little fresh news, as the roads in the mountains are now blocked with snow, but all rumours tend to confirm the impression that he is preparing for a fresh enterprise in the spring.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 57.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received March 27.*)

(No. 207.) *Constantinople, March 17, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van reporting the stringent orders addressed by the Porte to the Governor-General to send money to Constantinople, the conduct of the military authorities in forcibly seizing the corn sent in from the country, and the disorganized state of the Administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 7. Confidential.) *Van, February 8, 1881.*

Sir,

WITH reference to the matters spoken of in my despatch No. 6, Political, of this day's date, the Vali, in the course of my conversation with him yesterday, said that, to prove to me that he was not personally to blame for the demands made on the people, he would tell me, confidentially, that he had lately received several most severe telegrams from the Council of Ministers, saying that it must be owing to his neglect of duty that he did not send money to Constantinople, and threatening him with dismissal and punishment if he did not at once make remittances. He then complained bitterly of the conduct of the military authorities, saying that not only did they appropriate wrongfully all the money they could lay hands on, but also that, instead of receiving in a regular manner from the civil authorities the corn required for the use of the troops, when boats came in from the corn-growing districts beyond the lake laden with Government grain, they forcibly seized the boats and took possession of the corn, refusing to give any account of it. Then they sold the corn, and paid themselves their emoluments out of the proceeds. In the meantime the civil employés could obtain none of their salaries, and the Administration was therefore entirely disorganized. His Excellency added that he himself had received no salary for nine months, and that his position had become so unbearable that he could no longer endure it, and would insist upon leaving as soon as travelling became possible.

I have this day sent a cypher telegram to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, informing him of the condition of affairs here, as described in my last and in the present despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 58.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received March 27.*)

(No. 208.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 17, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the subject of the relations of the Governor-General with the judicial authorities of the vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 5. Confidential.)

Sir, *Van, February 1, 1881.*

I HAVE on more than one occasion reported on the unsatisfactory working of the judicial machinery at Van. This is due not only to the corruption and fanaticism of the Courts themselves, but also to the character of the Adlié Mufettish, Assim Bey, the Mutdai Umumu, also named Assim Bey, and his deputy, Abdullah Effendi. The Adlié Mufettish is a pleasant and, I believe, well-dispositioned young man, but he is utterly unfit for his responsible position, being indolent and pleasure-seeking, and without any legal knowledge. He is also said to be inclined to drink. The chief Mutdai Umumu is an indolent, incapable man, who leaves almost all business to his deputy.

This deputy, Abdullah Effendi, is a most pernicious character, unjust and corrupt, and bitterly hating the Christians, so that he loses no opportunity of perverting justice against them, either by falsely convicting Christians of crimes they have not committed, or by obtaining the acquittal of Moslems who have committed crimes against Christians.

Up to the present time the Vali, though always complaining that the judicial authorities do not do their duty, and thwart his endeavours to have justice done and criminals duly punished, yet has upheld and screened them when inquiries have come from Constantinople, drawn forth by complaints made against Abdullah Effendi and others; but I have been informed to-day that his Excellency has lately quarrelled with the two Assim Beys, with Abdullah Effendi, and also with Réouf Bey, the recently-appointed President of the Criminal Court of Appeal, and is about to try and get them removed. It would be a very good thing if advantage could be taken of this to make some favourable change in the present state of things.

Karakeen Vartabed, the head of the Armenian community here, paid me a confidential visit to-day, and expressed great anxiety about what might happen in the spring if Sheikh Obeidullah were to make a fresh rising. There is an idea prevailing among the Armenians that the Turkish Government would not be sorry to see him come down and cut off the Armenians. But the Vartabed said that he thought that whatever direction the Sheikh's movement might take, it would suit the Russians, who were always desirous that the country should be in an unsettled and disturbed condition, and that bad feeling should exist between Christians and Moslems. He himself wished that good relations could be established between the Armenians and the Turks, but he could not get his people to agree with him as long as the Turks made no sign of improving the condition of the Armenians, or of protecting them from wrong and robbery. A very small concession, he said, would produce a very good effect on his people as a sign that the Turks really wished to do justice, and as an earnest of greater reforms in the future, even the mere appointment of an Armenian Mutdai Umumu or deputy Mutdai Umumu, so that when Armenians had complaints to make there should be some one to whom to apply who could speak their language and be disposed to do them justice. It would surely be very well for the Turkish Government if they would take some steps to win the confidence of their Armenian subjects instead of driving them to desperation, and thus giving opportunity to the ambition of foreign Powers if they were desirous of taking advantage of it.

I may mention that I have heard that the Vali is desirous that the present Mouavin, Agathon Effendi, an Armenian, should replace Assim Bey as Adlié Mufettish. This would be placing an Armenian in a position of trust and responsibility, but I am obliged to say that though I think Agathon Effendi is a clever man, I

do not trust him very much, as he seems to me to be, like, unfortunately, too many Armenians when they get into office, more anxious for his personal profits and interests than for anything else.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 59.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 210.) *Constantinople, March 17, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, forwarding the translation of a petition from nine villages in the district of Kroom, in which the inhabitants complain that although they pay exemption-money, they are nevertheless enrolled for military service. Mr. Biliotti's despatch No. 136 of the 11th September, 1878, to which he refers, appears not to have been sent home, and it bears a minute by Sir H. Layard to the effect that it does not appear to be a matter in which we had any right to interfere.

While agreeing in this view, the conduct of the authorities in this case is so characteristic of Ottoman administration that I venture to recommend Mr. Biliotti's despatch to your Lordship for perusal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 13.) *Trebizond, March 8, 1881.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excelleney's information, copy of a petition which was addressed to me, as well as to the other Consuls at Trebizond, by the Kroomlees, that is, by descendants of the Byzantines, who, though secretly Christians, publicly followed the tenets of Mahomed.

The question relating to the Kroomlees has been the subject of a long correspondence between Her Majesty's Embassy and this Consulate ever since the Crimean war. My last despatch, in answer to one from Sir A. Layard of the 1st September, 1878, is marked No. 136, and dated the 11th of the same month.

The purport of the inclosed petition, which bears the seals of nine villages and fifty-two signatures, is that, though they pay as exemption-money a higher sum than formerly, they are enrolled for the military service.

The increase on the sum in question is not an act of the Government; they do not charge individually, but collectively, each Christian community. So far as I have been able to understand, it would appear that the Greeks of the district of Kroom, in order to alleviate their own taxation, have reckoned as genuine Christians, and collected military taxation from, the same individuals who are considered by the local authorities as liable to conscription as Mussulmans or descendants of Mussulmans.

I have communicated on the subject with Sirri Pasha, who stated to me that, if the Kroomlees had paid exemption-money, they were entitled to its restitution, but that they could not evade military service.

According to Sir H. Elliot's despatch No. 1 of the 23rd January, 1875, the rule adopted by the Porte towards the populations which have embraced or openly professed Christianity was to regard as liable to conscription such of them as were born previous to their profession of their new faith. However, in practice, this principle was never strictly followed here. But it would seem that the rule now established by the Porte is that the conversion to or open profession of Christianity does not exonerate at any time the descendants of Mussulmans from serving in the army.

I have heard from a trustworthy source, of course other than the Governor-General, that the explanation given to the Valis in transmitting this new order is that if children born of parents who embraced Christianity were exempted from conscription, Mussulmans might be induced to abandon their faith.

As conversions of genuine Mussulmans to Christianity have hitherto been almost unheard-of cases, the present assumption of the Porte is very remarkable. It is an

avowal on the part of the ruling class that the reluctance of their co-religionists to serve at present as soldiers is so intense that apprehensions are entertained that genuine Mussulmans may go so far as to become apostates for the sole purpose of exonerating their children from conscription.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Petition from the Kroomlees to Consul Biliotti.

M. le Consul, *Trébizonde, le 5th Février*, 1811.

LES Soussignés, Chrétiens du Koroom, ont l'honneur de vous informer qu'en 1857 le Gouvernement Ottoman ayant laissé la liberté de conscience aux habitants du Kroum qui jusqu'alors passaient pour Musulmans à cause de la terreur de ces époques. Les Soussignés se déclarent Chrétiens, et furent comme tels reconnus par le Gouvernement et les autorités locales.

Cependant, peu de temps après le Gouvernement commença à vouloir prendre des recrues parmi nous, nous considérant toujours comme Musulmans, et continue depuis à le faire. Mais cette mesure répugnant naturellement aux Chrétiens, car il y eut quelques exemples où quelques-uns des nôtres étant tombé entre les mains des autorités furent forcément circoncis et enrôlés soit dans la marine soit dans l'armée de terre.

Cette décision força beaucoup d'entre nous, et des habitants de Matchka, à émigrer en Russie, ou à se naturaliser sujets Russes, pour nous délivrer des tracasseries et des persécutions auxquelles nous sommes sujets depuis tant d'années.

Nous Soussignés, qui sommes restés Ottomans, nous nous sommes vus forcés à nous disperser dans les diverses villes de l'Empire pour échapper aux poursuites des autorités. Et quoique ayant adressé plusieurs fois des requêtes à la Sublime Porte, aux Ambassades, et au Patriarcat; nos requêtes restèrent sans effet et les poursuites redoublèrent.

En 1863 nous payâmes 36,000 piastres d'exemption pour le service militaire de quatre années antérieures, mais peu de temps après l'autorité recommença à réclamer nos enfants et à nous tracasser.

Or, jusqu'à ce jour le Gouvernement n'a pu réussir à prendre des soldats parmi nous à cause de l'émigration en Russie et de la dispersion; par ce fait donc, non seulement le Gouvernement ne peut réussir à prendre nos enfants, mais le Trésor perd aussi des sommes importantes que produirait l'exemption du service militaire, et des autres droits que nous aurions payés si nous étions laissés paisiblement dans nos foyers.

Il y a un mois environ le Gouvernement Impérial a ordonné de faire payer aux Chrétiens cinq années de droits d'exemption du service militaire, et dans les registres dressés à cet effet les Kroumlis ont été inscrits comme les autres Chrétiens, et ceux qui avaient des moyens ont déjà payé cinq années d'exemption; les autres tâchent de se procurer l'argent pour satisfaire à cette taxe.

Mais le Conseil Militaire de Trébizonde ne veut pas reconnaître ce qui a été fait par l'autorité locale, et veut absolument nos enfants, nous considérant non pas comme Chrétiens, mais comme Musulmans.

Le village de Glouveun, dans Kroum, payait annuellement 675 piastres pour trente et un Grecs, tandis que cette année l'autorité a perçu 1,075 piastres pour soixante-trois personnes, soit de trente-deux de plus au nombre correspondant à nos enfants.

Nous venons humblement vous supplier, M. le Consul, de bien vouloir prendre en considération notre requête, et d'user de vos bons offices auprès de son Excellence le Gouverneur pour que de telles vexations et de telles angaries ne nous soient pas faites; car non seulement l'on nous prend notre argent, mais l'on nous persécute aussi; et dans le cas où l'on voudrait nous faire servir forcément, et ne pas nous reconnaître comme les autres Chrétiens, nous nous verrons dans la nécessité d'émigrer en masse en Russie.

Nous vous prions donc, M. le Consul, de vouloir bien en référer aussi à votre Gouvernement et à l'Ambassade pour qu'elle agisse auprès de la Sublime Porte, et nous délivre une fois pour toute de cette tyrannie.

Nous sommes, M. le Consul, vos très humbles et dévoués serviteurs,

(Follow, seals of 9 villages and 52 signatures.)

No. 60.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 234.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 29, 1881.*

I HAVE received Captain Everett's despatch No. 23 of the 7th December last, inclosed in Mr. St. John's No. 600 of the 22nd of the same month, in which he gives his views as to the modes in which influence could best be exercised by the military Vice-Consuls in Asia Minor with a view of improving the administration of the country. Captain Everett's observations are interesting as showing the impression produced on his mind by the unsatisfactory results which have hitherto attended his efforts to ameliorate the condition of the Christian population, though his suggestions are not in accordance with the views of Her Majesty's Government as expressed in my despatch to your Excellency No. 550 of the 6th October.

The last paragraph but one of Captain Everett's despatch, in which he points out the advantages of endeavouring by making friends with the authorities to obtain as a favour what cannot be demanded as a right, appears to deserve consideration; and your Excellency might, if you think it desirable, call the attention of the Consular officers in Asia Minor to the good effects which might in some cases be obtained by conciliatory and friendly counsels to the authorities rather than by language of a more severe and denunciatory character.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 61.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 239.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 31, 1881.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 204 of the 17th instant inclosing one of the 28th February from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, which forwards a memorial from the Mussulman inhabitants of the Nahié of Keshab, in the district of Kerassond, containing complaints against the local authorities; and I have to request that you will convey to Mr. Biliotti my approval of his having communicated the memorial to the Governor-General of the vilayet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 62.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 230.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 24, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Captain Stewart, relative to the mobilization of the Redifs in the Vilayet of Koniah, and the miserable state of the Mahommedan peasantry. Captain Stewart fears that, in case of war breaking out, disturbances might occur in the province, of which the Christians might be the victims.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Captain Stewart to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 1.)
Sir, *Adalia, March 10, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that it is reported orders have come directing the immediate mobilization of the Redifs of the Koniah Vilayet belonging to the 2nd Corps. It is said that these troops are to embark here. As yet no troops have arrived, nor have any of the Redifs in the immediate neighbourhood been called in.

It is further said that orders came to fill up the ranks of the Redif battalions with Mustafiz, in cases where the requisite numbers of Redifs were not forthcoming. If true, this order has since been cancelled.

During the past winter some 2,080 conscripts have passed through the town.

I would also beg to draw your attention to the miserably impoverished state of the Mahommedan peasantry. I am assured that in the district of Istanos, but few hours from here, many are reduced to feed on roots and wild salad. Judging by what I saw and heard during my journey at the end of last year, and from the state of the poorer classes in this town, I am convinced that such must be the case in many other districts.

The Government has sanctioned the issue of 4,000 kilés of grain to this sandjak; but in view of the extensive poverty that obtains, the amount is wholly insufficient.

Nothwithstanding this great and increasing destitution efforts are being made to collect the taxes, to meet which the people are selling anything they can lay hands on. Should the new scheme of anticipating five years' taxes be carried out, many will doubtless be ruined, and trade will greatly suffer.

As for the destruction of locust eggs, beyond calling a meeting some time ago, but little has been done. It is probable that such is the case in other districts.

Taking into consideration the great and increasing poverty, the losses that will again most likely be caused by locusts, the pressure for taxes, the dearth of labour through the calling in of the Redifs, and the incompetence and weakness of the local Governments, it is very probable, should war break out, that there may be disturbances in various districts.

I think it unlikely that these disturbances will be directed against the Government; they will be rather against the Christians, who are comparatively wealthy and well-to-do.

In the event of war, I would therefore suggest some cruizers being kept along the coast. These vessels would tend to keep the coast, and perhaps also to some extent the interior, quiet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 63.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 231.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 24, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 202 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch from Captain Clayton, respecting the attitude of the Armenians of Van in regard to the alleged insurrectionary movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 9. Confidential.)
Sir, *Van, February 23, 1881.*

WITH reference to the matters spoken of in my last despatch No. 8, Confidential, of the 15th instant, I have received information that the principal Armenians here are discouraging the idea of a rising, thinking that if the Russian Armenians were to come according to their plan, they would be embroiled with the Turks, but be possibly left in the end to fight alone, when they would certainly get the worst of it. I am thus confirmed in the opinion I expressed that the Armenians of the city are not disposed to lead an insurrection, and although the peasantry are profoundly discontented, they will not rise without leaders. In the absence, therefore, of interference by a foreign Power, I think tranquillity will not be disturbed by the Armenians, but it is difficult to calculate certainly upon what may happen if, as seems probable, the Kurds make fresh disturbances in the spring, and the people are rendered still more discontented by the ruthless pressing for taxes which seems to be impending.

I have been informed by a member of the Idaré Medjliss that a telegraphic order has been submitted to the Medjliss which had been received by the Alai Bey, not the Vali, ordering the taxes for the ensuing year to be collected at once and remitted in their entirety to Constantinople, and that the ordinary civil tax-collectors are not to be entrusted with this duty, but that zaptiehs and troops are to be used for this purpose. The steps to be taken in consequence are still under consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 64.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 232.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 24, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Beyrout, inclosing a copy of a letter addressed to him by the two religious Chiefs of the Druzes of Mount Lebanon, detailing the grievances of their co-religionists of the Hauran, which gave rise to the recent disturbances, and soliciting his intervention for a peaceful solution of the question.

Pending an expression of opinion from your Lordship as to the course which Mr. Dickson should follow in this matter, I propose to telegraph to him my approval of the attitude of reserve which he has hitherto maintained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 64.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 14. Confidential.)
Sir, *Beyrout, March 14, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Excellency's information, a translation of a letter which I have received from the two religious Chiefs of the Druzes of Mount Lebanon, detailing the grievances of the Druzes of the Hauran, which gave rise to the recent disturbances, and soliciting my intervention for a peaceful solution of the question.

I have abstained from sending any reply to this document.

The murder of the Druze, Sheikh Feudi Azam, referred to as one of the principal grievances, occurred last November, and a Commission was appointed by the Vali to inquire into the subject, but, it would appear that the Druzes have been dissatisfied with the result of the investigation.

No change seems to have taken place in the attitude of the authorities towards the Druzes, since I had the honour to address to your Excellency my above-mentioned despatch, except that, I understand, the Mushir of the 5th Army Corps, Hussein Fevzi Pasha, is to head the Commission which is about to proceed into the Hauran for the purpose of settling this question.

Mr. Vice-Consul Jago will, doubtless, keep your Excellency informed of any details of importance that may have occurred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 64.

Mahammed Hamade and Mohammed Zalia to Acting Consul-General Dickson.

M. le Gérant, *Lebanon, le 1/5 Février, 1881.*

VOUS aurez sans doute appris l'événement qui eut lieu dernièrement entre quelques Druzes du Hauran et les Hauraniotes, et l'état où est réduite la nation Druze dans ce pays-là par suite de l'événement susmentionné. Toute la nation est mise dans un état de siège, les routes lui sont fermées, les troupes, les Hauraniotes et les Bédouins l'entourent de tous côtés, de sorte qu'il devient impossible aux Druzes de faire

parvenir leurs plaintes. Tout cela provient des fausses accusations que des gens intéressés mettent à leur charge, en leur attribuant la rebellion, des atrocités sans aucun fondement, inventées par les Hauraniotes et les ennemis des Druzes parmi les fonctionnaires du vilayet, en vue de les dénigrer aux yeux du monde civilisé.

Tout en reconnaissant la grossièreté du caractère de tous les habitants du Hauran, à quelque secte qu'ils appartiennent, nous ne reconnaissons pas moins que l'événement qui eut lieu ne ressemble en rien à une guerre entre deux nations, ou à une rebellion. Ce n'est qu'une simple agression d'un parti contre l'autre en vue de se venger et ne faisant que se conformer aux habitudes du pays.

Les Druzes figurent au nombre des plus dévoués et des plus obéissants des sujets du Gouvernement Impérial. Si par hasard quelque chose arrive parmi quelques-uns d'entre eux et leurs voisins les Hauraniotes, il n'est point juste de les considérer comme rebelles, et de les traiter comme tels. Il est cependant notoire que cet événement n'eut lieu que par suite d'un excès d'agressions commises par les Hauraniotes contre les Druzes tels que: (1) l'assassinat de Cheikh Fendi Azam, Notable Druze, son neveu, et son domestique, dans le village de Nahti; (2) l'assassinat de deux marchands Druzes de Sueydeh, qui vendaient du tabac à Karak; leurs corps, après avoir été mis en pièces, furent jetés aux chiens dans les rues; (3) l'assassinat de deux moucres des villages des Atraches, qui vendaient du goudron dans le village de Habab; (4) l'assassinat d'un homme du village de Hout, dans le village de Gabaguib, où il vendait des instruments d'agriculture; (5) l'assassinat de Salman Khattar, du village de Amiri, qui revenait de Damas. Les actes d'agressions susmentionnés, joints à l'indifférence des autorités locales de venger des victimes innocents et la justification des coupables en cachant la vérité par de vains prétextes malgré des plaintes réitérées à ce sujet, ont excité les parents des victimes à la vengeance. Ils sont venus aux environs de Karak, où ils ont rencontré un grand nombre des habitants du village de Em-Walad, qui se rendaient à Karak. Voyant que l'attitude des Druzes était menaçante, les Musulmans de Em-Walad firent feu sur eux, les Druzes de leur côté rendirent le feu pour le feu; un engagement sérieux s'ensuit, et les deux partis ne se séparèrent qu'après avoir laissé un grand nombre de morts et de blessés. Voilà, M. le Gérant, les détails de l'événement et son origine.

La nation Druze étant une seule au Hauran et au Liban et sachant l'intérêt que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique a toujours bien voulu leur montrer, témoin le passé, qui nous laisse des souvenirs de zèle enracinés dans le cœur de tout Druze; que plus d'une fois le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique l'a sauvée de la ruine et de la destruction, nous venons vous prier, M. le Gérant, au nom de toute la nation Druze, de vouloir bien prendre les mesures efficaces auprès de qui de droit, en vue d'amener un arrangement pacifique de cette question et d'empêcher l'effusion du sang. Les gens qui entourent son Altesse le Vali s'efforcent sous mille prétextes de faire exécuter leurs mauvais desseins contre les Druzes en portant le Gouvernement à les attaquer et à leur faire tout le mal qu'ils leur souhaitent. Nous vous réitérons nos prières, M. le Gérant, de faire telles démarches que vous jugerez à propos à l'effet d'arrêter l'effusion du sang. Les Druzes ne peuvent recourir qu'à vous pour assurer leur repos, leur tranquillité, et leur protection du mal.

Nous nous permettons d'ajouter aussi que Cheikh Hazimé Humeydé, un des Chefs Druzes du Hauran, se trouvait depuis longtemps à Damas auprès des autorités Lorsque l'événement eut lieu dans le Hauran, ses ennemis à Damas intrignèrent contre lui auprès du Vali, et quoiqu'il n'ait eu rien à faire dans l'événement précité, il fut arrêté et jeté en prison contrairement à la justice, qui ne permet point de punir l'innocent. Nous vous prions de vouloir bien intervenir en sa faveur afin de le libérer. Son élargissement nous intéresse parce qu'il figure au nombre des personnes intègres et pacifiques.

L'emprisonnement de cet innocent devient plus frappant lorsqu'on voit que d'un autre coté, des brigands de grand chemin condamnés à perpétuité, tel que Zahir el Rekide, ont été libérés par l'entremise de quelques fonctionnaires de Damas, en vue de l'envoyer avec sa tribu pour se venger des Druzes.

Nous saisissons l'occasion pour vous faire part aussi du maltraitement à Damas et dans ses environs des muletiers et des voyageurs Druzes partant du Liban ou y venant. Une pareille manière de procéder à l'égard des Druzes est non seulement contraire à la justice, mais elle peut amener des conséquences sérieuses et aggraver la situation. Nous faisons appel à votre justice pour mettre fin à ces actes d'agression.

Tout en réitérant nos sollicitations de vouloir bien vous occuper des intérêts d'une nation toujours connue par son dévoûment au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté

Britannique, nous vous offrons d'avance nos sincères remercîments et nos vœux les plus ardents pour la gloire et la prospérité du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine.

(Signé) MOHAMMED HAMADE. (L.S.)
MOHAMMED ZALIA. (L.S.)

No. 65.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 238.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 28, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Lieutenant Chermside, on the subject of Greek feeling in the Vilayet of Aidin, and the prevalence of brigandage in that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Lieutenant Chermside to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 4.)
Sir, *Aidin Gazel Hissar, March 18, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in accordance with your instructions, I have made such inquiries as lay in my power as to the state of Greek feeling in this district.

You are, however, aware, Sir, that the work I have been preparing before the travelling season commenced, and other considerations have prevented me from much travelling in the Greek districts. Smyrna and its environs, and a narrow strip along the coast north and south, seldom over 20 miles wide, contain the bulk of the Greek population of this province. I have visited Seidi Keuy, Boaja, Bournabat, Kokludja, and one or two other important Greek villages, and my servant, an intelligent Greek, was with me on the last occasion. All I could learn bears out your conclusions, that no *mot d'ordre* seems to have been passed by the priests, usually among these ignorant populations the prime movers in such intrigues, and all I am told induced me to believe that there could be, on the part of the Greeks, no such ebullitions on the coast of Asia Minor as characterized the old War of Independence, but that any such would be confined to local disturbances, and not form part of any combined movement. On the other hand the Greek subject population feels very natural apprehension as to their possible treatment by the Turkish majority. A latent danger exists, certainly, in this direction, as while the Greeks themselves are well-to-do and being now in numerous places in possession of the lands and property belonging to Turks, from which the commercial intelligence and aptitude, the industry and money-lending propensities of the Greeks have gradually ousted their former proprietors, are naturally disposed, for their own interest, to keep quiet, the Turks might, if stirred up, seek to revenge themselves for their altered circumstances.

The very moderate amount of enthusiasm, however, which so far the crisis with Greece has excited, renders any untoward occurrences on a large scale improbable, unless, as has been too often the case, connived at or fostered by the authorities. The country has been denuded of troops to a great extent, only three or four Redif battalions of twenty-four raised now remaining in Smyrna.

There was a rumour of arms and powder being imported by the Greeks to which the Turks paid some attention. I am inclined to believe that this was only the ordinary profitable contraband traffic in such goods, salt, &c., which is carried on between the Greeks of such islands as Samos, &c., and those of the mainland. There are several mining concerns in work in the vilayet, and a considerable part of the traffic is in blasting powder; the sale of powder which was carried on from licensed khans before the war is now altogether prohibited. The Greek Notables of the village are the capitalists and real principles in the affair, and it is they, similarly, who are the main supports of the lamentable system of brigandage that prevails in this vilayet; their influence with the local authorities suffices often to secure to the brigands immunity from arrest, or to secure their release or escape when captured. Brigandage, when connived at by the village populations, is always a very difficult thing to

suppress, all the more so when the population and the Administration look on each other as alien races. I cannot but think, however, that the physical difficulties in the way of its suppression in the Smyrna district have been very much exaggerated. If proper pressure or surveillance were put upon the villages its suppression should be easy enough. Meanwhile, I can report no improvement in this respect; on the contrary, the winter, usually an off season for the brigands, has been signalized by a daring series of outrages up to the very suburbs of Smyrna by bands, who must have in the inclement weather been sheltered in or near the villages; the brigands, however, who are said to be Bulgars, are not, it is believed, supported by Greek Notables, whom they treat, if occasion occurs, like Turks or others. Bands of Turks, and sometimes of Turks and Greeks mixed, are common in the interior, and though the former usually confine themselves as elsewhere in Anatolia to highway robbery, I hear they are gradually learning the Greek habit of seizing prisoners to ransom.

The number of Hellenes in this vilayet is very large, I am told over 30,000. I am told besides those in Smyrna, which perhaps form two-thirds of the number, there are many in various villages, and even as you are aware on the authority of Midhat Pasha during our conversation with him last December, several large villages near the coast exclusively Hellene, whose position as regards municipal arrangement, local Tribunals, police, &c., and pasture and common rights, may give rise at any time to very difficult questions. The Vali has asked all the Consuls some weeks since for a return of the subjects of their respective nationalities residing in the vilayet, and I have little doubt this was done with a view to the question of the expulsion of Hellenes in case of war with Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 66.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 243.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 29, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti respecting the mode of levying the forced loan in the Vilayet of Trebizond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 14.)
Sir, *Trebizond, March 19, 1881.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 5th instant, I have the honour to call your attention to an important circumstance connected with the forced loan on property, lately decreed by the Porte.

As reported in previous despatches, landlords in the Vilayet of Trebizond compel their tenants to pay the "verghi," or property tax, an arrangement against which the latter bitterly complain.

In ordinary times this may be considered as being an addition to the rent, but this construction can also be contested, as according to the existing regulations landlords, it would seem, have no right to increase the rents fixed in by-gone years.

Though at first sight this restriction of the law may appear to be too binding on landowners, it is not so when the fact is taken into consideration that no expenses are ever undergone by them for improving their property, and that tenants themselves are not in a position to ameliorate lands which, by their physical features, tend to annual deterioration.

Be this as it may, the Decree lately issued by the Porte is to the effect that the loan is to be borne by landlords as an additional verghi.

Tenants in this vilayet may be entitled in part, or in full, to the ownership of the lands which they cultivate, but until the question is legally settled the individuals who exact rent are the responsible landlords towards the Government.

However, there is no possible doubt that the latter will take care that the additional verghi imposed by the Porte should be paid by those from whom the usual tax is exacted, and in this case the forced loan would be contributed by tenants as additional rent, and not by landlords as extraordinary verghi.

This result would be in direct contradiction to the spirit of the enactment in question.

Unless special instructions are transmitted for the guidance of the local authorities in the present exceptional case, the poorer classes in the Vilayet of Trebizond will be subject to an unjust and overbearing extortion which may bring about complications and end by a general emigration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 67.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 259.)
Foreign Office, April 8, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 203 of the 17th ultimo, inclosing copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, relative to preparations which are reported to be making for a rising of the Armenians against the Turkish Government, and the part said to be taken in the movement by the Russian Government and its Consular Officers. I have also received the despatch from Captain Clayton of the 15th February last, which is forwarded in your despatch No. 202 of the 17th ultimo, and which tends to corroborate the information as to the probability of such a movement; and I would suggest, should your Excellency see no objection to such a course, that you should communicate the substance of these Consular Reports to the Sultan, and that you should point out to His Majesty that the neglect to remedy the grievances of the Armenians is driving them into the arms of Russia, and seems likely to bring about the troubles which I directed you, in my despatch No. 69 of the 9th February, to warn His Majesty might probably be the result of postponing any longer a commencement of reforms.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 68.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 210.)
Constantinople, March 31, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Barnham to Major Trotter, relative to various points connected with the Vilayet of Diarbekir.

I take this opportunity of informing your Lordship that I had long conversations both with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister a few days ago relative to the state of affairs in the Vilayets of Diarbekir, Van, and Bitlis.

I dilated in the strongest language I could use on the suicidal policy which, in my judgment, the Porte is pursuing, in leaving matters in their present state, and in even aggravating the situation by that severity in collecting taxes and arrears of taxes which has been reported to this Embassy from so many quarters. I stated, without any reserve, that the reports received seemed to show that the Governor-Generals would be pardoned anything, provided they sent money to Constantinople, that this was the sole point on which they appeared to receive stringent orders. The Prime Minister denied that any large sum had been received from Asia, and named a very small amount as the total received this year. But he stated that orders had been given to relax the severity to which allusion had been made, and that these orders should be repeated.

I spoke to his Highness of the presence amongst the Armenians of many Russo-Armenians from Tiflis, and of the propaganda said to be in progress.

I added that the agents who were reported to be at work stirring up the Christian population were, I was convinced, not employed by the Russian Government, but worked on behalf of Committees in Tiflis, and that the Porte were assisting their

efforts and preparing the ground for revolution by the exactions and other severities which the local authorities were practising with impunity.

Said Pasha informed me that he knew of the movement, and of the presence of Russo-Armenian agents in many quarters. He also knew that they were not employed by the Russian Government, indeed, the Governor-General of Tiflis had sent a message to the Porte warning it of the presence of these very agents, a mark of friendship for which he had thanked the Russian Ambassador.

I then pressed his Highness very urgently with reference to the proceedings and the shortcomings of many of the Valis, especially the Vali of Diarbekir. If, as his Highness stated to me, they could not improve the gendarmerie or the judicial system without money, which at present was not forthcoming, why did the Turkish Government not, at least, remove guilty functionaries, and show the population that any Governor-General who oppressed them would be at once removed. Why not dismiss these incompetent men, and select the very best man whom they could lay hands on, and send him with extended powers into those districts with peremptory orders to do his utmost to allay the fears, and to win the confidence, of the Armenians? I had repeatedly urged this step on the Turkish Government, but in vain. They allowed the time to slip by, while matters were going from bad to worse, and it would soon be too late.

I am not without hopes that I made some impression, and that the Vali of Diarbekir may be dismissed. I shall leave no stone unturned to accomplish this object. I am causing a statement to be drawn up by Major Trotter, who is here now, as to the case against this most incompetent Governor for transmission to the Prime Minister in confirmation and explanation of my remonstrances, and I am taking other steps to secure his recall.

If, through the influence of English remonstrances, one conspicuous Governor-General could be punished, such a step could not fail to have an influence on other Turkish functionaries, and to strengthen the hands of our Consuls in their watchful endeavours to secure some amelioration in the treatment of the suffering populations.

But the difficulties which my predecessors and myself have experienced in securing the recall of the worst Governors do not allow me to be very sanguine.

During the negotiations which have been taking place relative to the Turco-Greek frontier, it has been considered generally advisable by the Ambassadors that we should not seek interviews with His Majesty the Sultan on other subjects. But in any case it would have been difficult to secure His Majesty's full attention to any other question.

I have thus not yet had an opportunity of bringing the substance of your Lordship's despatch of the 9th February, which reached me on the 19th February, to the notice of His Majesty, but your Lordship may rely on my carrying out the instructions in that despatch on the very earliest favourable occasion which I can find or make.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Mr. Barnham to Major Trotter.

(No. 4.)
Diarbekir, February 20, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the satisfaction of informing you that Hadjo, the brigand of Midiat, is dead. This result was not brought about by the action of the Government. He was betrayed into the hands of a member of a hostile tribe about twelve days ago, shot, and his head carried to Mardin. It was an act of retaliation on the part of his slayer for the murder of a near relative committed long ago. The Mutessarif, Said Pasha, has returned to Mardin with several prisoners of Hadjo's family and tribe.

The condition of some of the prisons is horrible. In that of Mardin, which is not sufficiently large to hold 200 men in a healthy condition, there are now 400. In that of Diarbekir, which is far more commodious, there are 300. About the date of Said Pasha's return malignant typhus broke out among the Mardin prisoners. Application was made to the Vali for authority to send the newly-arrived prisoners to Diarbekir, but refused on the ground that the Diarbekir prison was full. The Mutessarif was instructed to hire a separate building for the sick, but represented that there were not sufficient zaptiehs in the city to guard the two establishments.

The prisoners generally remain crowded together in an open court-yard, standing up to the ankles in water, and many of them heavily chained. The mortality among them from exposure and want is by no means small, apart from those attacked by typhus. Many, who have neither friends nor money, are allowed by the Government to starve, their only chance of obtaining money consisting in begging a scrap here and there from their more fortunate fellow-prisoners. There is a standing order that rations shall be served to those who have no other means, but there are very many who receive nothing. The authorized ration per head is 300 drams of bread every morning. In the Diarbekir prison the wards are more comfortable than at Mardin, but many of the prisoners are without food.

Among the prisoners in Diarbekir are three Greeks who were lately arrested for political reasons near Janina and transported to this place. My attention was drawn to them by a petition which I received a few days ago from one of their number who was without rations. Others have been interned in different parts of the country. I am now distributing relief in the prison.

The newly-enlisted recruits desert in far larger numbers than formerly. To prevent this they are frequently sent to head-quarters in chain-gangs and subjected to the harshest treatment. The military service is by no means a service of love in Kurdistan.

A telegram was received a week ago from the Ministry of Justice ordering that those of the Kurdish Aghas interned at Aleppo by order of Abédine Pasha, who had escaped but had been retaken, should be at once sent to Constantinople to be judged before the Court of Appeal at Stamboul. Only two or three have been retaken, the others are at large in the desert, and the Procureur-Général assures me that very few remain at Aleppo. Those who remain there are probably the most innocent and friendless.

I received last week a petition from the Yezidis, or Devil-worshippers, resident in the Kaimakamlik of Redwan. The subject of the petition is a plea for exemption from military service and treatment on the same footing as the Christian Rayahs. They state that forty years ago there were between seventy and eighty villages in the Caza of Redwan, the population of which was composed mainly of Yezidis. They were agriculturalists, and enjoyed at that period immunity from military service. This privilege enabled them to retain their integrity as a body, and, being a peaceable community, they attained a high standard of prosperity as compared with the remaining peasantry of the country. About thirty-five years ago a Firman was promulgated ordering their enrolment for military service under the same conditions as the Turks. Since that date their prosperity has gradually passed away, and the reason is stated to be the dispersion of their community in consequence of this obligation to serve in the army. They are a curious sect, exceedingly exclusive and fanatical. As a good Mussulman considers intimate relations with a Christian defilement, so do the Yezidis shrink from communion both with Mussulmans and Christians, but especially with the former. For this reason the petitioners state that they have systematically deserted ever since their community became liable to service, and in such large numbers that only 10 per cent. of the Yezidi recruits from this district have actually served. When news arrives that the Recruiting Commission is about to visit their neighbourhood, they depart with their families, and if, during their absence, they are balloted for, and the lot falls upon them, they never return.

The petition states that members of their community are now only found in thirty-five villages of the caza. I visited some of them last autumn. They were very poor. They wish to be allowed to pay the soldier-tax like the Christians on the general ground of their antipathy to the dominant race, and for the particular reason of the oppressions to which they are subjected in connection with the enlistment. They state that those who are enlisted always endeavour to find a substitute, for whom they sometimes pay heavily, but are, nevertheless, carried off with the other recruits. The life which members of such a sect must lead while serving with the Mussulman troops must be one of constant oppression. Yezidis and Christians live together on peaceable, though not sociable, terms in the Caza of Midiat. A more numerous community exists in the Sinjar Mountain district in the latitude of Mosul and south-west section of the Mesopotamian Plain.

I have been asked to represent to you a gross case of injustice at Redwan. About four months ago an Armenian of the orthodox persuasion died at Redwan, and his death was laid at the door of a Protestant, named Galibo, who now lies in Redwan gaol. The circumstances of the case are as follows:—

The Armenian owed the Protestant the insignificant sum of 10 paras, for which the latter made application at the Armenian's house. The latter was at the time in a state of intoxication, refused payment, and assaulted the Protestant, who, in self-defence, threw the Armenian to the ground, where he received a trifling injury. Both were thrust into prison, and released a week later.

Two months later the Armenian, who had entirely recovered from the injury stated, fell ill and died. His relatives thereupon presented a petition to the Government claiming blood-money from the Protestant or his family. The Protestant was cast into prison, where he remains without hope of release. His innocence is now universally acknowledged, even by the relatives of the Armenian, but the Procureur-Général of Sert, a corrupt official, named Fetha Effendi, keeps him under lock and key in the hope of extorting a heavy backsheesh as the price of his release. The same official about a fortnight ago released two notorious Kurdish brigands on receipt of £T. 400.

A similar state of things to that existing in the villages of Cheylik and Kerboran, which I described in my despatch No. 3, Political, of the 10th instant, prevails among the Rushkatan Kurds. The villages of the latter range through a section of the Bisheri district described by a line drawn from the bridge over the Batman Sou straight away to the immediate neighbourhood of El-Meidin, embracing the country lying between that line and the Rushkatan Mountains. There are several Christian villages in this district, each of which is owned by a Kurdish Agha, who holds the persons and goods of the Christian inhabitants as his private property.

They are to all intents and purposes slaves. They pass by inheritance from one Agha to his son, and are sold by one Agha to another. The same state of things occurs among the Kurds of Sassoon, a hostile tribe. All these Kurdish tribes have a power in their own district which the Government cannot match without making extraordinary exertions. Hence it is that active rebellion on the part of these tribes is invariably met by conciliation on the part of the Government officials. The refractory Chief must be coaxed like a spoilt child by presenting him with a jewelled sword, pistols, or other such toys, or by a promise of office under Government. But the Christians suffer in the meantime. The Government taxes are rigorously exacted, and once paid, must be paid over again to the village Agha. I am sure that the sufferings of the Christians under such a régime must be terrible, but details of acts of oppression in that district do not frequently come to hand. The power of the Aghas is so great that the Christians dare not complain, and the district is so often in a state of disorder that travellers avoid it.

In the days of Kiord Ismail Pasha's government this was not the case. Troops were garrisoned in different parts of the district, and good order was maintained by the unsparing infliction of the bastinado upon all marauders.

The state of the finances has everywhere reached such a pass that the officials often declare, without shame or reserve, that they do and must find money by irregular means. The Procureur-Général, while remarking to me the other day that the Law Court officials usually received their pay out of the judicial fees collected in their several districts, pointed out to me that there were several cazas in Kurdistan where there had not been a single lawsuit during the past year, and, consequently, no fees. As a case in point, he told me that a Naib* had recently been appointed to the Caza of Shernakh, in the Sandjak of Mardin. He had pointed out to the Naib that not a piastre had been received at Shernakh during the past year for expenses of litigation, and asked him how he meant to live. The answer was that he intended to find the money. Generally, the Kurds settle their own disputes, having as little to do with the Government as possible.

At the village of Dasseman, near Fakheen, four brothers of the Shahdofan tribe of Kurds, named Mirza, Osman, Allô, and Rammo, carry on a system of plunder in that and the surrounding villages, with the usual circumstances of ill-treatment.

I might multiply instances of the kind.

The condition of the Christians is very bad, and it is hard to point to any one place and say that security of life and property exist there.

We have several cases of typhus and diphtheria in Diarbekir, especially among the troops.

Parts of the country are seriously flooded. The town of El-Meidin, in the Bisheri district, is partly under water.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

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* Equivalent of Cádi in a caza.

No. 69.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 253.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 4, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of a despatch from Captain Clayton, giving some statistics respecting the tithes for the two past years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 1. Commercial.)

Sir, *Van, February 28, 1881.*

I AM glad to be able to report that the famine in this part of the country has practically passed away. Wheat is now selling at from 2½ to 3 medjidies the "chap" (1 chap = 2 Constantinople kilés), and bread sells at about 2 piastres silver the oke. There is plenty of corn and bread to be obtained at these prices, and the prices have a continual downward tendency. This time last year the prices were from £ T. 1 to £ T. 1½ per "chap" for wheat and 3 to 5 piastres silver per oke for bread, and they continued to rise till July, reaching at last the prices of £ T. 2½ per "chap" for wheat and 8 to 10 piastres per oke for bread. Moreover, it was often impossible to obtain corn at any price, and the bakeries were only kept going by the issue of grain by Government at the rate of 50 drams per head of the poor population per day.

This year also there are not the great number of refugees from the country districts that came in last year, and one never sees crowds of starving people round the bakers' shops.

Nevertheless, there is a great deal of distress among the poor, because last year they parted with everything they possessed to keep themselves alive, and therefore they are now so impoverished that they cannot support themselves, though prices are so much lower.

I am, therefore, extremely grateful for a sum of 200*l.*, which I have lately received from Lady Strangford's Fund. There is still plenty of scope for the useful employment of any funds that may be kindly sent.

I inclose statements of receipts and expenditure with regard to Famine Funds up to the 15th instant, and of how relief has been distributed. I have sent copies of the same to Lady Strangford.

I have obtained the following statement of the tithes received of various articles in kind, and of their money value, for the two years 1295 (1879) and 1296 (1880), for the Vilayet of Van (Sandjaks of Van and Hakkiari) :—

	Tithes of Year 1295 (1879).	
		Value.
	Constantinople kilés.	Prs. p.
Wheat	63,218	2,023,185 19
Barley	9,094	250,122 20
Rye	12,500	350,058 10
Millet	4,464	104,347 30
Linseed	662	24,139 00
Gorugun (?)	383	6,054 20
Göhul*	59	1,185 00
Lentils	45	1,103 30
Beans	36	638 20
Mustard	15	425 00
Peas	22	602 20
Nuts, hazel	161	1,186 00
Composition for tithes of hay and grass ..	..	412,335 33
Total	..	4,084,975 02

	Tithes of Year 1296 (1880).	
		Value.
	Constantinople kilés.	Prs. p.
Wheat	53,194	1,327,319 06
Barley	12,830	314,106 20
Rye	4,328	124,070 00
Millet	2,590	17,408 10
Linseed	616	17,211 10
Gorugun (?)	344	4,109 30
Göhul*	16	505 00
Lentils	9	435 00
Beans	14	560 00
Mustard	39	795 00
Peas	8	225 00
Composition for tithes of hay and grass ..	..	1,290,500 02
Total	..	3,538,159 32
Composition paid by Ashirets	..	154,590 30
Grand total	..	3,692,750 22

* A small white bean (*qy.* haricots).

With regard to these figures, I am unable quite to understand why the produce should have fallen off so much in 1880. It is true that in the districts where famine prevailed a great deal of land was untilled in 1880, because so large a proportion of the inhabitants had either died or emigrated and for lack of seed; but, on the other hand, in 1879, the harvest failed in those regions, and in the districts west of the lake, Arjesh and El Jivas, where famine did not prevail, the yield was greater in 1880 than in 1879. The reduction in price also would lead one to expect that the produce had been greater in the latter year. It is possible, however, that the amount of land thrown out of cultivation may have more than balanced the increased fruitfulness of the remainder, and that as the extent of corn-land in this vilayet is comparatively small, the existing reduction in prices may be due to the large yield in the surrounding vilayets and in Persia, rather than to the actual production of the vilayet itself.

The very great increase in the composition for tithes of hay and grass in 1880 is also striking, but it must be remembered that 1879 was a year of extreme drought and all the grass was burnt up, whereas 1880 was a year of abundant water, and the pasturages gave such plenteous yield that fodder in abundance has lasted through the winter up to the present time.

The money value of the tithes of wheat has fallen in still greater proportion than the yield in kind, but this is of course due to the reduced price of wheat now as compared with this time last year.

In arguing on the significance of these returns, it is, however, necessary to bear in mind that so much rascality prevails in the collection of the tithes that these figures can only be regarded as giving a most rough approximation to the produce of

the country. On the one hand, the collectors cheat the Government, thereby causing the produce to appear less than it really is, and on the other hand, they force the peasantry to give them much more than the due proportion of the produce, and pocket the difference between the amount they screw out of the people and the amount they account for to Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 60.

ACCOUNT of Receipts and Expenditure of Famine Fund to 15th February, 1881.

Date.	Sums Received:	£ sterling.	£ T.	Silver Piastres.*
1880.				
Feb. 20	Through Major Trotter (Lady Strangford's Fund)	100	110	
April 7	,, Sir H. Layard ,, ,, ...	300	330	
June 16	,, Mr. Goschen ,, ,, ...	500	550	
Aug. 10	,, Major Trotter ,, ,, ...	1,000	1,100	
Sept. 28	,, Mr. St. John ,, ,, ...	400	440	
July 2	,, Mr. St. John (Diplomatic concert)	..	200	
Aug. 6	Subscription from Lieutenant-Colonel Marsh, R.E... ..	2	2	20
Oct. 29	,, ,, F. A. Taylor, Esq., Madras	10	11	
July 1881.	Given by Major Trotter for Mar Shimoun	..	50	
Feb. 7	Through Mr. St. John (Lady Strangford's fund)	200	220	
Feb. 14	Gain on exchange	..	..	50
	Total	..	3,013	70

* 105 silver piastres = £ T. 1.

Date.	Expenditure.	£ T.	Silver Piastres.*
1880.			
March 30	To Rev. Mr. Knapp for distribution at Bitlis	25	00
March 30 to May 19	Purchase of corn in Boulanyk and El Jivas	180	64½
	Expenses of transport of above corn to Van	10	22½
April 16	Commission on cashing cheque for £ T. 100	3	00
May 15	,, ,, ,, £ T. 110	5	52½
June 8 to 15	Three telegrams	..	97½
,, 18	Given to Nestorian refugees	1	00½
July 2	Paid to American missionaries for share of expenses of soup-kitchen and corn ordered jointly	186	01½
April 30 to June 2	Relief works (repairing road to harbour)	18	78
,, 10 to 15	Two telegrams..	..	52
,, 27	Commission on cashing cheque for £ T. 100	5	00
July 2	,, ,, ,, £ T. 200	10	00
,, 3	,, ,, ,, £ T. 200	10	00
,, 3	,, ,, ,, £ T. 100	5	00
,, 4	To Armenian Charitable Commission from concert funds	50	00
,, 4	To Moslem ,, ,, ,, ...	50	00
,, 10	To Bashkala Government for distribution	100	00
,, 10	Contract for supplies to be brought from Persia to Bashkala	167	85
,, 12	Given to Agent at Bashkala to buy corn as occasion offered	115	00
,, 15	Grain bought at Diza (Gevver)	50	88
,, 15	Given to Moslem Committee Diza (in addition to share of grain) ..	10	00
,, 21	Grain bought at Diza	33	35
,, 23	Given to Mar Shimoun on behalf of Major Trotter	50	00
,, 23	Distributed personally to nine villages	44	00
June 27 to Aug. 15	Expenses of transport and distribution of corn	36	100
,, 28	Commission on cheque for £ T. 300	10	00
Sept. 1	,, ,, £ T. 150	3	00
,, 8	,, ,, £ T. 200	1	52½
,, 29	,, ,, £ T. 300	6	00
Oct. 11	Entrusted to Mr. Wahl for distribution to Nestorians	50	00
,, 14	Sent to Bashkala	450	00
,, 18	Commission on cashing cheque for £ T. 500	12	52½
,, 28	318¾ "chaps" wheat (697½ Constantinople Kilés)	266	52½
Nov. 2	Commission on cheque for £ T. 100	4	00
,, 12	Sent to Bashkala	50	00
Dec. 8	266¾ "chaps" wheat (583½ Constantinople Kilés)	191	102
,, 9	86 ,, ,, (176 ,, ,,)	79	65
,, 22	116 ,, ,, (232 ,, ,,)	93	52
,, 23 to Feb. 8	180 ,, ,, (360 ,, ,,)	130	17
1881.			
Jan. 1	Sent to Mr. Wahl (Mr. Taylor's subscription)	11	00
,, 10	To villagers in Mahmoudié in lieu of corn	8	00
,, 15	Transport of corn to certain villages too poor to fetch it themselves ..	11	10
,, 15	Expenses of canvas and distribution in Mahmoudié	15	14
,, 15	To refugees at various times	6	13½
Feb. 11	Telegrams	..	52½
,, 14	Balance paid to Mr. Knapp for expenses connected with purchase and transport to Van of corn bought by Major Trotter	29	36
,, 14	Loss on wheat bought at Zaag, and not allowed to be transported to Van by Vali of Bitlis, which had therefore to be resold	17	24
	Miscellaneous expenses	2	75
	Corn bought and distributed to poor of city of Van	75	00
	Balance in hand	311	07½
	Total	3,013	70

* 105 silver piastres = £ T. 1.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON, *Captain, R.A.,*
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Van.

Inclosure 3 in No. 69.

DISTRIBUTION OF CORN.

Date.	Corn obtained as per account.	Chaps.	Date.	Corn Distributed.	Chaps.
1880					
Mar. 30 to May 19	Bought at Boulanyk and El Jivas ..	160	1880 Spring and summer	Sent to Bashkala	346
June ..	Bought by Major Trotter at Bitlis and handed over to me	275	.. ..	.. Shadilakh	31½
July 2..	Bought jointly with missionaries* ..	153	.. ..	.. Nurdux	33
July ..	Bought at Diza	85	.. ..	.. Pergri	120
Oct. 28..	Bought at Van	348½	.. ..	Given in small quantities	11½
Dec. 8..	Ditto	266½	.. ..	Used in soup kitchen	44
.. 9..	Ditto	88	.. ..	Given to district of Gevver (grain bought at Diza)	85
.. 22..	Ditto	116	Autumn	Sent to Mahmoudié	915½
Dec. 23 to Feb. 8, 1881	Ditto	180	.. ..	Distributed to poor in city of Van ..	83½
	Total	1,672½		Total	1,672½

REMARKS.—The corn sent to Bashkala in spring and summer of 1880, together with the money left by me there in July 1880, as shown in accounts, was distributed among 10,441 destitute souls in 93 villages (population largely Kurdish).

The corn sent to Mahmoudié in the autumn of 1880 was distributed to about 4,500 destitute persons in 45 villages, at the rate of one-fifth of a chap per head, or about half a bushel, including women and children (majority of population Kurdish).

The £T. 500 that I sent to Bashkala in the autumn of 1880, added to £T. 200 sent by the American missionaries, has been employed in the purchase of 695½ chaps of wheat and 335 chaps of rye, which have been distributed to 5,152 destitute persons in 55 villages, at the rate of one-fifth of a chap per head.

I have not yet received a full statement of the number of people in the town of Van to whom the corn bought with the £T. 75 (which is the last item in my account) has been distributed.

* This amount is inferred from the amount known to have been distributed, as some of the corn arrived during my absence travelling, and was unloaded by the missionaries, and the reckoning has become confused with that which they ordered for themselves for famine relief.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON, *Captain, R.A.,*
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Van.

No. 70.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 254.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 4, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Captain Everett respecting affairs at Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 70.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 4.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, March 18, 1881.*

I BEG to inform you that a letter has been forwarded to the missionaries by a Protestant Armenian of the village of Heramik, in the district of Chanous, complaining that, on the 5th instant, thirty cavalry soldiers, *en route* for Erzeroum from Mush, entered the village, and without the slightest provocation insulted and beat several of the villagers in a most disgraceful manner. I have reported the matter to the Vali, and shall endeavour to obtain some justice as soon as the soldiers arrive.

Some villagers of Komadsor, district of Passin, came in last week to report the great severity with which all arrears of taxes are being collected in their village. In the effort to extort money many people have been beaten and imprisoned by the soldiers, and to make the latter punishment more severe, a hole in the roof of the prison was left open during the night. The men prayed for time in order to get money together. I explained to them that the Porte was obliged to make an extra demand on the people at this moment, and urged upon them that the better policy would be to pay, if possible.

At the same time I wrote a letter to the Kaïmakam of the Passin, who happens just now to be Mehemet Ali Bey, late Kaïmakam of Keghi, and begged him to show all possible leniency.

The collection of taxes in advance has not yet been enforced.

Very stringent orders have been received from the Porte relative to the Armenians. Their movements are to be closely watched, their school books are to be examined, the sale of pictures of ancient Armenian Kings is prohibited, all education of a national character is to be prevented, and all meetings and assemblies in the city are to be dispersed.

Some of these orders have been already carried out. Several of their books have been called in for examination, and an almanack containing the names of their Kings and a few leading historical facts has been suppressed. For the last three weeks strong pickets have been patrolling the town, and ball ammunition has been served out to the soldiers. The city is perfectly tranquil. M. la Coste, the French Consul, has remonstrated with the Vali on the conduct of the Mutessarif of Bayazid. But the Vali has declared to M. la Coste that the Mutessarif is an excellent administrator, and that the charges brought against him are entirely unfounded. M. la Coste starts for Batoum on the 21st instant without awaiting his successor. The Russian Consul has twice promised me that he would see the Vali on the subject of the Mutessarif, but up to the present time he has not done so, and is evidently very unwilling to meddle in the matter. In the meantime I have received a letter from Hoolumnes, the Vartabed of Alashgert, informing me that he is collecting further evidence against the Mutessarif which will be forwarded me shortly, when I shall hope to be able to take stronger steps. The Persian Consul informs me that his Government has written strongly to their Embassy at Constantinople to obtain his removal. Trusting that you will use your influence in the same direction, I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 71.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 255.)
My Lord, *Constantinople April 4, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Assistant Richards, reporting the conclusion of the trial of the Armenian prisoners at Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Mr. Richards to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

Sir, *Sivas, March 10, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the trial of the Armenians charged with complicity in the late riot has been brought to a conclusion.

The trial, which took place in the Criminal Section of the Court of First Instance, lasted some days, and was characterized throughout by a gross absence of impartiality on the part of the presiding Judge and the Moslem members, two in number. One of the latter is the Mustantick, the official who had already tried the prisoners in his capacity of Juge d'Instruction, and had on that occasion given an unmistakeable evidence of an ill-disguised hostility towards them. His reappearance in Court in the capacity of member, is a direct violation of the law, and many protests were made against such a proceeding; but, I need not say, they were not listened to. Twelve witnesses were heard for the prosecution, and their evidence admitted as perfectly trustworthy and reliable, although in very many cases their subornation was a matter of notoriety. One witness asserted, on oath, that the Vali had been knocked down

and trampled on, which, being a manifest untruth, the Court perforce disallowed his evidence, and the Armenian, whom he charged with having committed the assault, was acquitted. Another witness for the prosecution was imprisoned for three days for declaring that no one had struck the Vali or seized him by the coat-collar, according to the general rumour in Moslem circles.

The prisoners begged from time to time to be allowed to summon, some, witnesses to character, others, persons who could prove an *alibi*, and others, again, friends to give evidence that they, the accused, though present, had not thrown stones. In every case the request was refused.

Towards the end of the trial one prisoner, a certain Kilidji Oglou Kerouk, was summoned, and informed that he was the wrong man, that the real offender was a man named Kirishdji Oglou Kalouk, who was imprisoned in his place, Kilidji Oglou being released. The victim of this extraordinary blunder had been in prison fifty-three days, during which period he had constantly protested that there must be some mistake, but his protests were not listened to. I need not say that he gets no satisfaction, although he is a small shoemaker with very limited means, to whom such a loss of time and money is a very serious misfortune.

Finally, sentence was passed against twelve of the prisoners, condemning them to different terms of imprisonment, ranging from one year to two months. Glynossian Agob Effendi was condemned to a year's imprisonment and loss of civil rights—a severe penalty for a man whom common report, and indeed common-sense, proclaim to be innocent. He was charged with, and found guilty of, inciting the mob to further acts of violence, using the Armenian language, whilst he pretended to do his best to calm them in Turkish. The charge is so improbable that the only men who could be found to make it are persons who have notoriously long cherished feelings of ill-will against M. Glynossian on account of an affair which occurred some two or three years ago, and was at the time, I understand, brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople. It seems that the witness and some relation (I believe, brother) stoned M. Glynossian's house, for which he prosecuted them, and they were, after some delay, and at the instance of Her Majesty's Consular Agent and Samsoon, imprisoned for three months. Ever since then they have missed no opportunity of venting their spite and ill-will against M. Glynossian, and seizing the opportunity, have come forward as witnesses in this trial.

Besides Glynossian Effendi, two other prisoners were sentenced to one year's imprisonment, and one other, a merchant, to loss of civil rights.

When sentence was about to be pronounced the Christian members, two in number, protested against the proceedings of the Court in general, and in particular against the non-admission of witnesses for the defence. These protests they committed to writing, signing and sealing the document containing them. They then refused to concur in the verdict which was pronounced by the presiding Judge, with the approval of the two Moslem members, thus gaining a majority. The "Ilam," or sentence, was then registered, and a copy presented to the prisoners, as the law requires, for which 1,050 piastres were demanded, although the proper fee is 30 piastres. This outrageous attempt at extortion was very naturally resisted, and has given rise to a long controversy, which, I believe, has not terminated.

I forgot to mention that, when the prisoners were released after their long term of confinement previous to the trial, securities were demanded and given to the amount of £ T. 1,350. The "sened," or document, drawn up on the occasion, and stating the amount of the recognizances, being handed over to the safe keeping of the Court of First Instance. Now that the prisoners have been convicted and are again in prison, they have not unreasonably demanded the restoration of the "sened." This is, however, refused, on what just ground it would be hard to say.

The present confinement of the prisoners is illegal, because they have appealed against the sentence to the Istinaff Court here, in which case they have every right to be at liberty on bail until the appeal can be heard, and the sentence confirmed or quashed. Their lawyer has protested on several occasions against the legality of this proceeding, as indeed of every other, but without much success at present. In case of it proving impossible to obtain justice here, recourse will be had to the Diven-i-Temyiz, or High Court of Appeal, at Constantinople.

I am sorry to say that the hand of the Vali is distinctly traceable throughout the late unjust proceedings. He appears to be so incensed against the Armenians that at times he loses all control over himself, and uses his influence, which is very great, as an instrument for their oppression.

I will merely add that M. Glynossian, whose case is exciting considerable

sympathy, is confined to his bed with typhoid fever contracted during his imprisonment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 72.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 267.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 7, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 255 of the 4th instant, inclosing a copy of one from Mr. Acting Consul Richards, No. 4 of the 10th of last month, relative to the trial of persons imprisoned at Sivas in consequence of a disturbance there some months ago, I am informed by Mr. St. John that he mentioned the subject to the Prime Minister before my return to Constantinople.

I do not propose to recur to the subject, flagrant as the case undoubtedly is, because I think the course which for the present is most likely to have some effect is to concentrate my efforts on endeavouring to procure the dismissal of the Vali of Diarbekir and the Mutessarif of Bayazid. I have already informed your Lordship that I do not despair of being able to effect this object.

It appears to me that, by increasing the number of my complaints to the Turkish Government with regard to provincial maladministration, I might diminish my chances of success; while it is clear that nothing is more likely to conduce to more regard being paid to representations made to the provincial authorities by Her Britannic Majesty's Consular officers than the conspicuous dismissal of one or two high functionaries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 73.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 280.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 12, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, with reference to my despatch No. 141 of the 25th February, a copy of a further despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Jago on the subject of the disturbances in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 7.)
Sir, *Damascus, March 27, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to refer to my despatch No. 4 of the 13th February, relating to the recent disturbances in the Hauran, and to report, for the information of your Excellency, that, since that date, the action of the authorities has been limited, pending the collection and drilling of Redifs, to blockading strictly with the force of 4,000 men already assembled, the Druse mountain on the Hauran side, thus cutting off all direct communication between it and Damascus.

On the 24th instant, however, reinforcements being available, Hussein Fehzi Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the 5th Army Corps, left Damascus for the Hauran at the head of a Special Commission of Damascene, Moslem, and Christian officials, in order to investigate, and in case of necessity to enforce, the delivery for punishment of the Druses implicated in the attack upon Kerak.

His Excellency was accompanied by three battalions of infantry and six guns, making, with recent reinforcements from the Belka, the forces in the Hauran to amount to between 6,000 and 7,000 men.

The Druses have confided their flocks to the Bedouins of the Syrian desert, who will appropriate them in case of reverses happening to their owners, and are said to be prepared to repel aggression and to resist the subjugation which will follow success by throwing themselves, if pushed to extremity, partly into the Lejah and partly into the Safa, the latter a similar rocky refuge in the desert twenty hours to the east of the mountain, whence they can issue to make reprisals. The great abundance of water and pasturage now prevailing in the desert would facilitate the carrying out of such a plan.

The Christian element of the populations of the Druse villages of the western base of the mountain, having applied to the authorities for protection in case of hostilities, have been instructed to withdraw to certain adjacent villages in the plains, whither they have consequently retired. A few individuals, however, still remain with the Druses.

Every effort has been made by the authorities, and, so far, successfully, to prevent written communication between the Druses and the outer world by searching, and generally imprisoning, all persons quitting the mountain on the Hauran side, whether Christian or Druse.

The Druse Chiefs formulate, I believe, fifteen grievances against the Government in defence of their conduct, which, while demonstrating their faithfulness to the Sultan, specify the numerous injustices and murders which have been perpetrated against them without redress, mainly by the Hauranese.

It is understood that they are ready to pay money to condone matters, a fact held locally to present great facilities for arrangement.

The Bedouin tribes, although hostile in sentiment to the Druses, hold aloof, fearing their prowess, pending final results.

Many indirect verbal requests have been made for the interference of this Consulate, which, however, I have declined to entertain.

I may here remark that the authorities evince no disposition to permit foreign intervention in the dispute.

I fear the chief difficulty will be to persuade the Druse Chiefs to entrust themselves before the Commission, and thus place themselves in the power of the Turks, the more so as two of them who happened to be in Damascus at the time of the outbreak were at once arrested and imprisoned, together with several others of minor note.

The collection of the Redifs has been attended with difficulty, and wholesale desertions on the way to head-quarters have taken place in many rural districts.

Extreme measures, however, are being avoided by the authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 74.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 287.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 12, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, with reference to my despatch No. 253 of the 4th instant, a copy of a despatch addressed by Vice-Consul Clayton to Major Trotter respecting Sheikh Obeydullah's relations with the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 11. Confidential.)

Sir, *Van, March 8, 1881.*

MAJOR KAMSARAGAN, the Russian Vice-Consul, showed me yesterday a translation of a letter written by Sheikh Obeydullah which had fallen into the hands of Mirza Riza Khan, the Persian Envoy, who was recently here, and who showed the letter to Major Kamsaragan. The address had been carefully erased, but it is believed

to have been written to Rashid Bey, the Kaimakam of Shaddakh, whom I mentioned in my despatch No. 23, Political, of the 2nd August, 1880, as being the prompter and adviser of the Sheikh in his instructions.

The letter runs as follows:—

(After the usual compliments.)

"I inform you that yesterday, Tuesday [?] 29 Zilkade [? 5th November, 1880] after you left here, in the afternoon I came with troops. There was a great fight with the Persians. Thanks to God more than 100 Persians were slain and only one on my side. We beat the Persians. Thanks to God we routed the Persians. As it is necessary that I should write to you every day about what happens, I write to you that I am much in need of rifles and cartridges. Send us as many as you can of Martinis, Tabatières and Winchesters, especially Martinis. For this purpose I have sent my man. As soon as possible give him rifles and ammunition. As he knows everything, he will tell you my intentions by word of mouth."

It is evident that this letter was written before the end of the expedition made by the Sheikh into Persia in the autumn, but Major Kamsaragan also told me that he had obtained the names of agents the Sheikh had sent to various localities to collect men and arms for a movement in the spring.

These names are as follows:—

Sent to Boulanyk and Chynys, Seyyid Abdurrahman; to Mush, Abdul Kader; to Bitlis, Ismail Bey; to Alashgerd, Slo Oglou Ahmed Agha; to Erzeroum, Seyyid Ali.

These men are nearly connected with the Sheikh himself.

Major Kamsaragan also believes that the Government is secretly abetting the Sheikh and assisting him with arms and ammunition. Lately considerable quantities of arms and ammunition have been quietly sent from Van nominally for the use of the troops in Hakkiari, but on mules belonging to the Sheikh and accompanied by one of the Sheikh's men.

On the 15th January were sent 12 loads rifles and 24 boxes small-arm ammunition. On the 21st January / 2nd February were sent 7 loads rifles, 14 boxes small-arm ammunition, and later 12 boxes small-arm ammunition and 8 boxes ammunition for mountain artillery.

Major Kamsaragan has exceptional facilites for finding out what is going on, in the number of Russian Armenians who are going about the country, but I do not feel quite sure about the complicity of the Turkish Government with the Sheikh. My own observations have rather tended to make me believe that the Government, though sympathizing more or less with the Sheikh, yet desires to hold aloof and temporize, waiting to see which side will have the best of it. The Vali called on me the day before yesterday, and the conversation turning on the Sheikh, his Excellency, instead of entirely denying the Sheikh's preparations as he had previously done, said that perhaps there might be some truth in the rumours about them. He said, however, that the Government had sent to the Sheikh requesting him to keep quiet, and that if he did not follow their advice but made war with Persia, he would have to take the consequences, as they would not again permit him to take refuge on Turkish territory. At the same time he said that the Sheikh had a good deal of right on his side on account of the way the Persians treated the Sunnis in Persia. It is also quite certain that the entire Moslem population sympathizes cordially with the Sheikh, and it is not impossible that, according to Major Kamsaragan's idea, the Government may be encouraging him in order to use the Kurds as they did the Albanians, to show how difficult it would be to make any concessions in favour of the Armenians. On the other hand it may be that the Russians wish this to appear so, to give them a pretext for interference.

About the sending of arms and ammunition from here with the Sheikh's men, I have heard on other authority besides that of Major Kamsaragan, but it is very difficult for me to obtain information on which I can rely. There are no Europeans in the country; Moslems, it is obvious, cannot be trusted; and the Armenians are also untrustworthy. They are prejudiced and ready to credit at once anything they hear against the Government, and, besides, I do not know now who may not be under Russian influence. I am sure that influence is steadily increasing, though some of the principal men may still resist it, but even they, I think, are gradually coming round. Last Sunday being kept as the anniversary of the Czar's accession, prayers for the Czar were offered up in the Armenian churches, and speeches were made in which

it was said that for one hope the Armenians had from Europe or England they had a hundred from Russia. I have been told that in answer to one of these speeches Major Kamsaragan said that perhaps the time would come when this country would be under Russian rule, but I hardly think he would have said such a thing publicly, whatever he might say privately.

No. 75.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 282.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 12, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Chermside, containing information respecting the Vilayet of Aidin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Lieutenant Chermside to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 6.)
Sir, *Aidin Guzel Hissar, April 2, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Consul-General, after a visit of two days, left Aidin for Smyrna on the 31st March, *en route* to Adana. In accordance with his instructions I am about to start for some of the Greek districts on the coast.

Among both Turks and Greeks there is a strong belief that there will be war; the Greeks of the mainland are very apprehensive as to their safety in such a contingency.

A leading British merchant in Smyrna told Colonel Wilson and myself that his agents in Crete looked on a rising there in case of war as almost a certainty. My servant, a Cretan, received yesterday a letter from his father, one of the leaders in the former insurrection, and this letter confirms the idea that a revolutionary movement is ripening; there are, however, Turkish troops in the island, and more are expected.

In the other islands the Greek population is in such a vast majority that if opportunity occurred it would be sure to do all that lay in its power in favour of Greece.

Smyrna itself is very quiet owing to the new police. This force is composed of Turks, Greeks, and Jews. About a week ago some of the small band of brigands who have been infesting the neighbourhood were captured. The two chiefs subsequently escaped.

The new gendarmerie is being established. The pay of the lower ranks is increased somewhat, that of the officers is very small. The outlying zaptiehs are being called in, and they are to be replaced in villages by local police, the gendarmerie to be concentrated and available for immediate despatch, and also to move about in strong patrols. The gendarmerie is, I am informed, being introduced in all four sandjaks of the vilayet. In that of Aidin eighty gendarmes arrived from Smyrna, and a few officers, such of the old zaptiehs as are able-bodied and are considered efficient, are given their option of accepting the new conditions of service on leaving. A small police force is also being established at Aidin and in the cazas.

As your Excellency is already aware of all the theoretical details of the gendarmerie scheme, and the military nature of its organization, it is unnecessary for me to speak of it further until I can report on its practical working.

The Smyrna police has been a great success so far, and undoubtedly since the arrival of Midhat Pasha, in spite of the great strain caused by the exigencies of the military situation, a considerable improvement is to be noted in the executive. European residents, with a scepticism based on their experience of previous abortive innovations, fear a relapse.

The Mutessarif of Aidin leaves shortly on a tour of inspection in his district.

All the Redifs, including the officers left to look after stragglers and deserters, have left Aidin; indeed, there are only three battalions left in Smyrna, the garrison of the whole district.

The prospect of all crops is wonderfully good.

The earthwork of the railway extension is complete for nearly 14 miles, and the rails are laid for 6.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 76.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 203.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 21, 1881.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 249 of the 31st ultimo, reporting the nature of the language you have recently held, both to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, with regard to the state of affairs in the Vilayets of Diarbekir, Van, and Bitlis; and I have to acquaint your Excellency that the representations you made to the Turkish Ministers are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 77.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 286.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 13, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Everett to Major Trotter, reporting the steps taken to procure the dismissal of the Mutessarif of Bayazid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 5.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, March 25, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the day before yesterday I called upon the Vali to speak to him about the Mutessarif of Bayazid.

I first of all called his attention to my note of the 24th December, 1880, a copy of which I sent you in my despatch No. 25, Political, of the same date, and to which no answer had been given. I then informed him that I had heard from M. La Coote (see my despatch No. 4, Political, of the 18th instant) that he considered the Mutessarif of Bayazid an excellent administrator, against whom charges had been brought which were quite unfounded, and I further told him that, observing from the statement above alluded to, that he was in a position to give an answer on the subject, I considered that he had shown some want of respect to Her Majesty's Government, which I could not possibly permit, in having altogether ignored my letter of the 24th December.

The Vali replied by saying that M. La Coote's statement was an exaggeration, and by excusing himself for not having answered my letter, on the grounds that he had been waiting for accusations to be brought against the Mutessarif by the people in the usual manner. As, however, no petitions had been received, he had concluded that there were none to come. The excuse was lame enough. I told him that he was, of course, at perfect liberty to write what he chose in answer to my letter, but that a

reply of some sort was absolutely necessary. He promised to send one without delay.

I then took the opportunity of speaking very seriously to him about the Mutessarif: I pointed out to him that, although possibly some of the charges brought against him might be exaggerated, still there could be no doubt that, by his severity, cruelty, and want of tact, he had succeeded in greatly exasperating the Christian population. I also endeavoured to set before him the danger of such a course, and I gave him most clearly to understand that if any disturbances should break out in that sandjak he would, especially after the representations which had been made to him, incur a very grave responsibility. I concluded the interview, by recommending him to take the necessary steps to obtain the Mutessarif's removal.

I am happy to inform you that my visit has not been without result, for in less than twenty-four hours I received an answer to my letter of the 24th December, and to-day I have learnt, from two independent and reliable sources, that the Vali has written to Constantinople to request the removal of the Mutessarif.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 77.

Mustafa Pasha to Captain Everett.

Erzeroum, March 24, 1881.

(Translation.)

WE beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th January, 1881,* containing an accusation against the Mutessarif of Bayazid.

We have been waiting until now to see personally the accusers and the nature of their accusations, but no one has come.

As you are probably aware, we have good rules by which any person having an accusation against another may bring it forward into the Courts of Justice, of which there are many, where the case will be settled according to the laws.

In deference to the wish expressed by you yesterday, and to strengthen our friendship, we write you this answer.

(Signed) MUSTAFA.

No. 78.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 298.) *Constantinople, April* 19, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls at Adana and at Angora on subjects of interest in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 78.

Lieutenant Bennet to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 6.) *Adana, April* 8, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that during the last fortnight large quantities of locusts have been hatched on the western portion of the Adana Plain, about 5 miles beyond Messina.

Immediately on hearing of it, the Vali, Abédine Pasha, took energetic measures to try and destroy them by sending as many men as could be got together to the spot, and proceeded himself to Messina to stimulate their efforts; the men are daily

This date should be December 24, 1880.

arriving, and by this time there are possibly some 3,000 or 4,000 engaged on the work, but notwithstanding the enormous destruction which so many hands may be able to effect I fear the case is very threatening, as I hear that several square miles of country are literally covered with these pests. The means adopted for their destruction are by burning the bushes where they congregate at night, and by driving them into pits and burying them. The villagers in the vicinity must have been aware that the eggs had been deposited last year, but no information seems to have reached the Government till quite lately, and after the mischief was done.

Abédine Pasha has telegraphed for more men and for some of the leading farmers to go and help him, and will, I have no doubt, do his best to avert the danger.

It is now twenty-six years since the last appearance of locusts on the Adana Plain.

Abédine Pasha has now been here two months, and there is a marked improvement in the state of this vilayet: the mere presence of such a man is enough to check robberies; he is making great improvements in Adana, has commenced a cutting above the bridge, by which he hopes to divert the course of the river, which is encroaching and threatening the north side of the town; he hopes to finish the road into the interior from Tarsus viâ the Gülek Boghaz this year (but in this I think he will be disappointed), and has collected some arrears of taxes, with which he has been paying the officials and zaptiehs some months' pay. He is showing himself to be a man of energy and ability, but I regret to say there are evident signs of his being drawn into the net of Geoffroy and Co. (French Vice-Consul), an entanglement which, I believe, proved fatal to Zia Pasha's integrity and to British interests in the Dingwall estate affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 78.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Angora, April* 9, 1881.

I BEG to inform you that, in compliance with instructions received from Consul-General Wilson, I have forwarded to him a copy of Kiepert's map, with the boundaries of the Angora Vilayet traced thereon. As far as I am aware, only two copies of an official map of such boundaries as at present arranged are in existence; one of these is kept at the Porte, Constantinople; the other is in the possession of the Vali here. I have obtained my tracing from the latter through the good offices of M. Vankovitch, the provincial engineer, so that it may be relied upon as accurate.

The military statistics asked for are being prepared, and will be forwarded by first post.

Inclosed will be found a Return of the sandjaks and cazas of this vilayet with their chief towns.

(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 78.

RETURN of the Sandjaks (with their Chief Towns) and Cazas of the Angora Vilayet.

Vilayet.	Sandjak (Chief Towns).	Cazas and Nahié.
Angora	Angora (Angora) ..	(1) Ayash, (2) Beybazar, (3) Mohalliteh, (4) Nallihan, (5) Yuksarabad, (6) Haimana, (7) Tchiboukabad, (8) Zir, or Asha Cassaba, (9) Zir, or Yolazi Cassaba, (10) Sivrihissar,
	Kaisariyeh (Kaisariyeh) ..	(1) Kaisariyeh, (2) Develu, (3) Injehsoo, Nahié— (1) Kostéré, (2) Karahissar (1),
	Kirshehr (Kirshehr) ..	(1) Kirshehr, (2) Keskin, (3) Mejidié, Nahié— (1) Gongi, (2) Mujur, (3) Hadji Bektash,
	Yozgat (Yozgat) ..	(1) Yozgat, (2) Chorum, (3) Sungurlu, (4) Mulem, (5) Boghazlian, Nahié— (1) Risseinabad, (2) Surgun, (3) Kizil Coja, (4) Sulemanli, (5) Akdagh, (6) Kara Maharey... (7) Karahissar (2).

No. 79.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 307.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 22, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches addressed by Captain Clayton to Major Trotter on subjects of interest in his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 79.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 13. Confidential.)
Sir, *Van, March 15, 1881.*

I HAVE to report that the Government at Van have been taking certain measures in view of disaffection among the Armenians. The Armenian Council has been requested to send in a statement of all Societies existing among the Armenians, with their objects, and a Club which was started a few months ago has been closed on account of speeches which have been made there. Numerous piquets patrol the streets at night, and it is rumoured that the depôts of arms have been removed to the castle for safety, and that arms have been secretly distributed to the Moslem population, but I cannot vouch for the truth of the last two statements. The principal Moslems have also been to the Vali, and said to him that they were afraid of their lives, for there was a conspiracy among the Christians to massacre all Moslems. Major Kamsaragan, the Russian Vice-Consul, came to me two or three days ago very indignant at the conduct of the Government, saying that they had no justification for what they were doing; that even if there had been a few Armenians from Tiflis who had spoken foolish things, they were persons of no authority, and that the Government were culpable in acting so as to encourage the enmity of the Moslems towards the Christians.

There has certainly been exaggeration in the reports of certain meetings made by Turkish officials, but knowing what I did of the propaganda that has been going on among the Armenians, I could not quite share Major Kamsaragan's indignation. However, I took an opportunity of seeing the Vali, and I said to his Excellency that I had heard that there was much distrust of the Christians among the Moslems, but that I was sure that the Armenians of themselves would make no trouble. The real danger would be lest any ill-judged harshness on the part of the Government or outbreak on the part of the Moslems should be the occasion of interference from the side of Russia. Therefore, I said, giving justice and security to the Christian people would be the best way to obviate danger. His Excellency thanked me for what I had said, but I understand that similar measures are being taken all over Armenia, so that they are probably inspired from Constantinople, and it is doubtful whether the Turkish Government can be got to see that improvement in administration and the condition of the people will be more effectual in preserving their power than repressive measures, which will only play into the hands of their enemies.

I may mention that Karakeen Vartabed, the head of the Armenian community, came to me yesterday, and, speaking of the action of the Government, begged me to speak to the Pasha to the same effect, as it happened I had already done, as reported above.

Although I do not think the Armenians will rise of themselves, I must nevertheless add, that should war break out between Turkey and Greece, I think it would require very little encouragement from outside to make them do so, unless some measure were taken to show them that there was a fair chance of their condition being improved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 79.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 14.)
Sir, *Van, March 22, 1881.*

THE inhabitants of the district of Mukus have handed me a copy of a Mazbata they have presented to the Government, complaining of the conduct of the Kaïmakam of Mukus and other persons. The complaints they make in this document are as follows:—

1. The people have paid their taxes for 1880, but Mehmed Zia Bey, the Kaïmakam, considers the money so paid as arrears due from persons who have emigrated, and, therefore,

2. He makes fresh demands for these taxes, so that many people have emigrated, and more will do so when the roads open.

3. The Kaïmakam gave orders for the tithes of the villages of Tonis, Sulis, and Sanis to be transported to Mukus. As the men of these villages were absent he made the women carry the grain on their backs, with the result that nine women had their feet frost-bitten and one had her hip dislocated.

4. He interferes in all law-suits to pervert justice.

5. Abdurrahman Nazi Effendi, the Naib of Mukus, had been dismissed from his office for malpractices when the Kaïmakam arrived. The latter took the part of the Naib, and obtained his restitution to office, since which time the Naib has become more oppressive than ever.

6. Suleiman Bey was at that time at Van to answer to complaints made against him by the people. The Kaïmakam tried to get him released, in order that he might support his efforts to get the Naib restored to office.

7. The Kaïmakam protects criminals and appoints them to offices, as Hajji Faki, who broke into the house of an Armenian, and carried off many things. Though there was plenty of evidence he was not tried, and continues in his office of Mubashir.

8. Suleiman Bey, who is notorious for the oppressions he has committed for so many years, is protected by the Kaïmakam. This man and Mustapha Bey have committed robberies, burned crops, and oppressed the people, but so far with impunity, being under the protection of the Temur Oglou of Van.

This Mazbata is signed by the chief people of Mukus—Armenians, Kurds, and Turks—and by all the members of the Idaré Medjliss and Bidayet Medjliss.

I spoke to the Vali to-day about this matter, and he said that the Kaïmakam had categorically denied the allegations made against him. His Excellency said, however, that when the roads opened he intended to send a Commission to investigate the matter, and also to suspend the Naib from his office, but that at present the road to Mukus was impassable except to the country people, who could travel on foot. Letters had also been sent to the Kaïmakam warning him to be careful of his conduct. Suleiman Bey and Avdal Bey, against whom complaints had also been made, had been summoned to Van, and orders had been sent to Julamerik to arrest Mehmed Bey, another notorious Chief who had fled thither.

Complaints having reached me about the conduct of the troops sent to the villages to collect the taxes, I called his Excellency's attention to this point also, and he promised to do what he could to prevent misconduct on the part of the troops employed on this duty. He said, however, that the circumstances were very difficult. When the order first came to employ the troops to collect the taxes he delayed carrying it out, and telegraphed a remonstrance to Constantinople, knowing that such a measure would be likely to be attended with much abuse. He received, however, such strict orders, and the necessity for collecting money was so strongly insisted on, that he had nothing for it but to obey. The villagers, being very poor, often object or entirely refuse to pay, and then the troops must use force to carry out their orders; but of course personal violence, especially to women, as complained of, was unjustifiable, and he would do what he could to prevent it.

His Excellency appears to me to sincerely regret the circumstances of the country, and to desire that they should be ameliorated, but to be powerless in the face of the existing political position and the imperious need for money.

I fear there will result great suffering, and the discontent of the people will be much increased, even if actual disturbances do not take place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 79.

Information respecting Members of Courts and Officials at Bitlis and Sert.

BITLIS.

Idaré Medjliss.

President.—The Vali (character in former Report).
Members.—The Mufti (character in former Report).
The Cadi. Lately arrived. Said to be a liberal man.
Jiaffir Agha. An old man of influence, whose father was for a long time Governor of the town of Bitlis. Apparently not of bad disposition, but reactionary.
Hajji Abdulghani Oglou Ahmed Effendi. Rich, young, but comes of a family of bad reputation.
Mahdessi Kharibjian Agha Sholijian. A very rich Armenian merchant, but without capacity.
Ohannes Agha Demirjian. Armenian Protestant. Upright, but without much knowledge of Turkish law.

Bidayet Medjliss.

President.—The Cadi (character above).
Members.—Hajji Netchmeddin Effendi. A Turk of great influence and plausibility, but said to be really corrupt and fanatic.
Hajji Abdal Oglou. Turk, stupid.

Sarkis Agha Hamidian. An Armenian. A man with good intentions but no ability.

Belediyé.

President.—Avidis Effendi Khatchmanougian. Armenian. A man of capacity, but corrupt and self-seeking.
Members.—Doujozadé Khalil Effendi, Mehmed Said, Badlijazadé Rasoul Agha; three Turks of indifferent character.
Vartasian Khatchmanoug. Armenian merchant, self-seeking.
Simon Agha Bakhalian. Armenian merchant, rich, but without ability.
Zakar Erganian. Young Armenian of good character.

Tijaret Medjliss.

President.—Hajji Dervishzadé Mustapha Effendi. A man of good manners, but corrupt.
Members.—Nasirzadé Yasin Effendi. Corrupt and selfish.
Mustapha Effendi Jibo. A nonentity.
Hagop Agha Khatchmanougian. Brother of President of Belediyé; able, but self-seeking.
Hagop Effendi Ablahatian. Armenian. Nonentity.
Ashar Mudir.—Raschid Bey. Formerly Kaïmakam of Bitlis. A man of good character, honest, and well-meaning.
Alai Bey.—A man of fair character.
Tabor Aghasy.—Selim Agha. A man of fair character.

SERT.

Mufti.—Mollah Hussein. Fanatic, and head of a faction.
Notable.—Hajji Abdullah Effendi. Head of another faction.
Treasurer of Government.—Moussa Agha Panosian. Armenian, of good character.
Mudai Umumi.—Fetah Effendi, of Diarbekir. Fanatic, and hostile to Christians.

Idaré Medjliss.

Members.—Hajji Ahmed Agha. Bad character.
Hajji Khalil Kassab. Fair character.
M. Minas Agha. Armenian. A poor creature.
Baho Agha. Associated with bad men.

Bidayet Medjliss.

Members.—Medjid Effendi. Ignorant and harmful.
Hajji Umr. Ignorant, but harmless.
Hano. Chaldean. Fair character.

Belediyé.

Members.—Essed Agha. A man of no capacity.
Salmo. Chaldean. Bad character.
Abderrazakh Dabagh. Fair character.

Tijaret Medjliss.

President.—Jibro. Chaldean. Bad character.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON, *Captain, R.A.,*
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Van.

Van, March 22, 1881.

No. 80.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 288.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 27, 1881, 4 P.M.*

YOUR despatch No. 275.

Inform Major Trotter that the account of what Mr. Gladstone said to Teheraz is generally loose and inaccurate, and that he made no reference to a Christian Administration in Armenia.

No. 81.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 314.) *Foreign Office, April 27, 1881.*

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 267 of the 7th instant, I agree with your Excellency in thinking that it is of little use for the present to address the Turkish Government again relative to the trial of those who are in prison on account of the Sivas disturbances; and I approve your Excellency's proposal to use all your efforts to obtain the public dismissal of some high Turkish officials as more likely to insure attention being paid to the remonstrances of Her Majesty's Consuls in Asia Minor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 82.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 311. Extender.) *Foreign Office, April 27, 1881.*

Sir,

THE attention of the Prime Minister has been called to the version of his interview with M. Teheraz which appeared in an Armenian newspaper, and is given in Major Trotter's despatch No. 1, inclosed in your Excellency's No. 275 of the 12th instant.

I have to request you to inform Major Trotter, on Mr. Gladstone's authority, that the accounts of what he said, while brief, are generally loose and inaccurate; but that, in particular, he made no reference whatever to the Christian or any other religious profession in connection with an Administration for Armenia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 83.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 315.) *Constantinople, April 25, 1881.*
(Extract.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Biliotti, containing information respecting the emigration of the Mussulman population from Lazistan.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Goschen.

Trebizond, April 16, 1881.

(Extract.)

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have telegraphed on the 14th instant to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs as follows:—

* * * * * * *

"Yacht 'Izedin' conveyed Shah's uncle to Batoum, and is just departing for Constantinople with 200 Laz families."

* * * * * * *

Though the "Izedin" is the first Government steamer which has embarked this year Lazes at Batoum, for some time past from 50 to 100 families have weekly taken passage on board postal steamers, and the number of emigrants increases as fine weather sets in.

Part of them land in this vilayet, but the majority proceed to the capital and surrounding spots. It is expected that the whole of the Mussulman population in that part of the Lazistan which was ceded to Russia will emigrate within the period fixed by the Treaty of Berlin.

They are said to receive rations, though there is great presumption that they are not regularly issued to them.

No. 84.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 322.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 26, 1881.*

SAID PASHA, ex-Governor of Aleppo (commonly called English Said), has been appointed Vali of the Vilayet of Koniah. Your Lordship may remember that his stay at Aleppo was a kind of exile. He was separated from his family and in very bad health, but he in vain begged for his recall. Sir Henry Layard made several private representations to His Majesty the Sultan on the subject, but without result. His Majesty promised on one occasion that Said Pasha should be recalled, but the promise was not kept.

In the end Said Pasha was superseded, but still not allowed to leave Aleppo, where his position became intolerable.

I received several private communications from Mr. Henderson on the subject.

It was necessary to proceed with some caution, as I found that the Sultan was under the entirely unfounded delusion that Said Pasha had conspired against his person.

Finally, I caused a letter to be written by Sir A. Sandison to Munir Bey, recalling the promises made by the Sultan to Sir H. Layard, pointing out the painful impression which Said Pasha's forced detention at Aleppo must make, and hoping that, if Said Pasha were not allowed to return to Constantinople, he might at least be appointed, as he wished, to some other place. Aleppo was entirely destroying his health.

I have received no message in reply, but have learnt in the usual manner that Said Pasha has been appointed to Koniah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 85.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 323.)
(Extract.) *Constantinople, April 26, 1881.*

WITH reference to that portion of Captain Everett's despatch which deals with the refusal of the Turkish authorities to give facilities for an inquiry into the state of the poor into the Bayazid Sandjak, the Prime Minister states that the refusal is based on the disturbed state of the country and on political agitation. The matter is still under discussion between the Minister and myself.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 6. Confidential.)
(Extract.) *Erzeroum, March 31, 1881.*

YESTERDAY I telegraphed in cypher to Her Majesty's Ambassador as follows:—

"I wish to send man to examine poverty in Bayazid Sandjak. Vali refuses to give buyuruldu until further orders from Minister of Interior. Please get them sent immediately."

On receipt of that portion of the proceeds of the lottery allotted to this vilayet (see my despatch No. 3, Political), the Sub-Committee, of which I was elected President, determined not only to inform the Vali of the receipt of the money, but to ask him to appoint a Mussulman member to assist us. He replied that he would write to Constantinople for instructions, but until he had received them he could have nothing to say to the matter.

Unable to find a competent man to undertake the lengthy examinations which are necessary, Mr. Cole, American missionary, sent down to Chanous for one of his teachers, who arrived here last Saturday.

I asked the Vali for a buyurultu for this man. He answered that he had written twice to Constantinople but had received no reply, and could not give a buyurultu till instructions were received. I immediately dispatched the telegram quoted above to the Embassy, and sent the man down to the districts with an ordinary travelling teskéré. I gave him instructions to proceed with what examinations he could. Should he, however, be molested by the officials, he is to discontinue the work and inform me immediately.

The opposition shown to us in this work by the local authorities is very discouraging, but it is, I think, in accordance with the policy of the Government. I am confident that the desire is, and has been for some time past, to force the Christians to emigrate into Russia, and I believe I am not wrong in asserting that the cruelties which have been practised on the Christians in the Bayazid Sandjak have been, if not encouraged, at least allowed with that object.

It has lately come to my knowledge that the Vali forwarded instructions to the Mutessarif to inform the Christians that the Government is at all times ready to buy up the property of all those who may wish to sell, at the valuation marked in their title-deeds, and further to tell them that they are at liberty to go to Russia if they choose. I believe many of the people would have emigrated long ago but for the assistance and encouragement which they have received from their own countrymen, from America, and from ourselves. It results from this that by feeding the people we are acting against the policy of the Government, and hence the opposition.

Respecting the distribution of the Armenian donations, there is, in addition, the suspicion that the distributors of relief are political agents, sent expressly to propagate seditious ideas amongst the people, and that the money is not all spent in grain.

There are, perhaps, some grounds for this suspicion. As I have once before remarked to you in my despatch No. 19, Political, Confidential, of the 25th June, 1880, "In every Armenian importation from Constantinople for any purpose whatever, we see a political agent." I have had no reason to change my opinion.

It is not impossible then, that the Vali and the Mutessarif of Bayazid are only acting according to orders in thus putting difficulties in the way of giving relief.

Yesterday, for the first time this year, I heard that the Armenians in Russia had not relinquished their intention of coming over to assist their countrymen in the Bayazid Sandjak.

The Government continue to take great precautions, and strong pickets patrol the town.

The intelligence I gave you last week that the Vali, after my visit of the 24th instant, requested the dismissal of the Mutessarif, has been fully confirmed.

No. 86.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 4.*)

(No. 337.)

Constantinople, April 29, 1881.

My Lord,

NEARLY a year has elapsed since the question arose, at the end of the three years' contracts between the Turkish Government and certain English officers for their employment as Inspectors of Gendarmerie, whether the services of these gentlemen were to be continued.

Your Lordship is aware how my predecessor and myself have pressed the Porte to carry out the promises made to the English Government on this subject. The reorganization of the gendarmerie and its inspection by English officers was to be considered as an instalment of the reforms insisted on by Her Majesty's Government and urged on the Porte as of paramount importance.

But the resistance of successive Ministers of War proved sufficient to prevent

the services of English officers being utilized, and most of those who were engaged have remained in compulsory idleness.

Colonel Blunt, at Adrianople, was allowed to exercise some activity, with very great advantage to the district. Colonel Allix, in Crete, had also the opportunity of making himself useful. Colonel Norton was appointed to Bitlis, but in an undefined position, and he himself, I believe, recognizes that few useful results were obtained. But the great majority of the twelve officers originally selected have not had any posts assigned to them.

Your Lordship will remember that after many remonstrances at the time when Abédine Pasha was Foreign Minister the promise was given that the contracts should be renewed and the officers be employed. Time, however, slipped on, and nothing was done, and it was not till November that the contracts of seven officers were renewed. Colonel Allix was one of the seven officers selected, but resigned. There thus remain only six.

I had repeatedly explained at the Porte that Her Majesty's Government took interest in this question, not for the sake of the employment of individual officers, but because they desired to see the efficiency of the Turkish gendarmerie increased, believing no step more calculated to improve the condition of the Turkish Empire and render possible the application of beneficial reforms than a better organization of the police. It was, therefore, not enough that the contracts were renewed. What was even more important was that the officers engaged should be allowed to work.

I explained to His Majesty the Sultan, personally, in the beginning of December, that it was almost painful to see a number of English officers, anxious for work, receiving pay for work (or, as I added, at least considered to be receiving pay), while, notwithstanding the existence of brigandage and insecurity for property in many parts of the Empire, I could not succeed in persuading the Porte to have any sphere of duty assigned to them.

His Majesty said that I need not say another word on the subject. The officers in question should be employed at once.

Still nothing was done.

In January, during my absence in London, His Majesty again stated to Sir A. Sandison that the English officers should be employed, but when I returned in February I found the situation unchanged and the officers still comparatively idle. I also found that some difficulties had been made with regard to Colonel Blunt at Adrianople, which nearly resulted in his being forced to resign, but the difficulties were smoothed over by Baker Pasha.

No progress was made during February and March. At last I am informed that the Turkish Government has consented to the employment of the remaining English officers in certain vilayets, namely, Smyrna, Aleppo, Damascus, Trebizond, and Adrianople, one officer, Colonel Synge, remaining at the head-quarters of the Department at Constantinople.

I regret, at the same time, to say that although more than two years have elapsed since definite Regulations and a new basis of organization for the gendarmerie were laid down by a Special Commission, these Regulations have never been approved, nor has any definite basis of organization been yet determined on.

What the Porte has done is to delegate to the Governors of certain provinces the power of reorganizing their own gendarmerie without giving any fixed basis. Thus each Vali is organizing according to his own ideas, and great confusion is arising. It is to five of these vilayets that the English officers in question are about to be sent, in order that they may keep the Head-quarter Department fully informed as regards these local attempts at reorganization.

Your Lordship is aware that the Turkish Government has throughout shown itself excessively hostile to granting any distinct executive power to the English Inspectors of Gendarmerie.

On the other hand, if their executive power is not distinct and defined, it only leads to constant clashing with the Governor and other authorities, both civil and military. It has, therefore, as I learn, been considered desirable, even by his Excellency Baker Pasha, who has done his utmost to insure the services of the English officers being utilized, to confine their action in their new appointments purely and entirely to inspection. They will leave Constantinople with definite instructions showing both their duties and their powers.

I inclose a summary showing what their duties and powers will be. It remains to be seen how this new arrangement will work, and whether the view with which it is inaugurated will be justified, namely, that the moral force thus given to the

Gendarmerie Inspectors will act more usefully than any attempt to grant them a partial executive.

I feel bound to add, in concluding this account of the employment of English officers for gendarmerie purposes by the Turkish Government, that what has happened seems to me to prove conclusively that it is impossible to force any special reforms on the Turkish Government against the grain, and that especially the employment of Europeans as administrators can be neutralized or rendered nugatory at every stage. It cannot be forgotten that the Turks are an arrogant race, accustomed to rule, sensitive as to their absolute independence, and jealous, even to fanaticism, of foreigners.

English officers, on the other hand, unless they are men of large experience, high rank, and broad views, take service under the Turkish Government, in many instances, with the traditions and feeling of a class who have been accustomed to deal with subject races, and to exert unquestioned and somewhat arbitrary ascendency over those with whom they come in contact. Such officers in the Turkish service, left, as they frequently are, without pay, and justly complaining of many other grievances, despise the Government whose servants they are, and, as Europeans and Englishmen, expect a deference to be shown to them which the Turkish authorities will not pay.

Where the Turkish Government, as in the cases of Baker Pasha and Hobart Pasha, has itself selected English officers of its own choice and will, and has placed them in high positions, because it expects eminent services from them, the employment of Europeans may work well; but I wish to place my opinion distinctly on record that it will always be a dangerous experiment to attempt to force any class of Europeans on the Turkish Government with a view to carrying out reforms, and that not only will the reforms be little furthered by their being connected with a machinery distasteful to the Turks, but that the Europeans employed will be placed in a false and almost impossible position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Extract from Memorandum on the Employment of the English Gendarmerie Inspectors.

THEY will examine into the general state of public security in their respective vilayets, and will report thereon directly to the Head-quarter Department of Gendarmerie in Constantinople, suggesting such recommendations for improvement as they may consider necessary.

They will report upon the capacity of the gendarmerie officers of all grades in their respective provinces, and will bring to notice any instances of irregularity in promotion or incompetency.

They will report directly to head-quarters at Constantinople the names of all officers of gendarmerie who distinguish themselves by special acts of courage and energy.

They will make special reports to head-quarters relative to the brigandage which exists in their respective vilayets, with detailed information relative to the constitution of these brigand bands, their numbers, their chiefs, &c., and will suggest such measures as they may consider necessary for their repression.

The Governors of provinces and other functionaries will receive instructions from superior authority at Constantinople to render every aid and assistance to the Gendarmerie Inspectors in their investigations and inspections.

The Gendarmerie Inspectors will not interfere with the commands of the gendarmerie, and will not have the power to issue orders to the Valis or other functionaries, but it will be within their competency to call the attention of these authorities to any irregularities which they may observe, to make such recommendations as they may consider necessary, and to report directly to head-quarters at Constantinople the result of these recommendations.

No. 87.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 310.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 2, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches addressed to Major Trotter by Captain Clayton, respecting the arrest of the Armenian Bishop of Bashkala, and giving further information about the case of the Kaïmakam of Mukus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 87.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 15.)
Sir, *Van, March 29, 1881.*

I HAVE to report an occurrence which is causing a good deal of excitement among the Armenians.

Last September Ohannes Vartabed, the chief Armenian ecclesiastic at Bashkala, was accompanying the agent of the Armenian Charitable Committee on a tour through the villages of Bashkala, to distribute relief, when three horsemen appeared in a threatening attitude. The Vartabed called to them to know what they wanted, and ordered them to halt. No notice of this was taken, and he warned them that if they advanced further he would fire. They still came on, so he fired and wounded one of them, who a few days afterwards died. It turned out that the man had been once a Christian, and had become a Moslem, and at one time had been Ohannes Vartabed's servant. Before he died he made a deposition that Ohannes Vartabed had always been very good to him, and that it was his own fault that he had been shot, as the Vartabed did not recognize him, and he was himself to blame, for he had intended to rob him of his horse.

In spite of this the Vartabed was arrested at Bashkala a few days ago on a charge of murder, and orders were given that he should be brought to Van. The people of Bashkala, where he is very popular, went to the Mutessarif, and begged that his removal might be postponed for a fortnight, as the snow was now so deep that horses could not travel; but Hajji Mustapha Effendi, the President of the Criminal Court at Bashkala, opposed this, and insisted upon his immediately being conveyed to Van.

Accordingly, he was sent off under escort, and had to proceed on foot half-way, after which a horse was procured for him, and he was allowed to ride. He arrived here the evening before last. It appears that, except in the matter of being obliged to make the journey at such an unfavourable time, he was treated by his escort with due respect. When the news of his arrest reached Van, which took place before his own arrival, the Armenians were very indignant, and Karakeen Vartabed, the Armenian Arajnant (head of community), went to the Vali, and represented to him that, by old custom, when an accusation was made against a high Armenian ecclesiastic, he should not be arrested, but a demand should be made for him to the Arajnant, who then would summon and keep him in the Arajnant's house until the examination into his case took place. He therefore requested that, when Ohannes Vartabed arrived at Van he might be permitted to proceed to the Arajnant's house. The judicial officials desired that he should be taken to the common prison; but, on representation that if this were done there would probably be a riot, the compromise was made that he should be kept in the Mouavin's room in the Government buildings. But the Armenians were by no means content with this, saying that, when Suleiman Bey, of Mukus, and other noted murderers, were summoned to Van, they were allowed to be guests in the houses of prominent Moslems, while different measure was meted out to a high Armenian ecclesiastic, who had killed a man simply in self-defence. Karakeen Vartabed came to me, and reported what had occurred, and said he had tried to quiet his people, but had only very partially succeeded, and that they had almost attacked his official residence, complaining that he did not sufficiently protect Armenian interests. He also reported the affair to the Russian Vice-Consul.

I went yesterday to the Vali, and pointed out the bad impression that would be made by such different treatment of Moslems and Christians, and begged him, if possible, to give the Vartabed over to the Armenian authorities, as there could be no possible danger of his escaping. His Excellency said that as the orders had come from Constantinople to the judicial officials to take these steps, he had no power to interfere in the matter, and that he had already taken a considerable responsibility on his shoulders in allowing him to be housed in the Government buildings, instead of being taken to prison.

I replied that I was very sorry he should be unable to grant the trifling

favour which would be so grateful to the Armenians, and I would request him to use his utmost exertions that the examination into the circumstances of the case should take place as soon as possible, and that the Vartabed should be at once released if proved innocent.

I then went to the official residence of the Arajnaut, and, explaining what I had said to the Vali, and promising to use my best endeavours to obtain the speedy settlement of the matter, beggsd Kurakeen Vartabed to use his influence with his people to be patient, and not compromise both themselves and Ohannes Vartabed by making disturbances. He promised to do his best, but said the people were in a very excited state.

The Russian Vice-Consul had also an interview with the Vali, and I believe used very forcible language to him, threatening to make a very strong representation to the Russian Ambassador by telegraph if the Vartabed was not handed over to the Armenian authorities within twenty-four hours. So the matter stands at present.

I believe the cause of this arrest of Ohannes Vartabed is that he is a bold and active man, and strenuous in protecting the interests of the Christians, especially against Hajji Mustapha Effendi, the President of the Criminal Court at Bashkala, whose corruption and iniquity are notorious. Hajji Mustapha Effendi, who is a man of influence, has, I believe, employed his interest with the judicial authorities here and at Constantinople to cause the arrest of the Vartabed, in order that he may be freed from the restraint of his presence in Bashkala, and his machinations have been aided by the general antipathy of the Turkish officials to Christians who are influential and thwart their evil practices. I am inclined to believe that the Vali has not been much implicated in this affair, though I have a suspicion that he is not displeased to see the judicial officials commit themselves, as he is not on good terms with them.

I would call attention again to the case of Hajji Mustapha Effendi. When the Imperial Reform Commissioners were here he was suspended from his office of President of the Criminal Court at Bashkala on account of the complaints made against him, and in an extract from a Report of the Vali of Van to the Sublime Porte, of which a copy was sent to me by Her Majesty's Ambassador on the 20th June, 1880, it was stated as follows:—"En ce qui concerne Hadji Moustapha Effendi, Président de la Cour Criminelle, certaines plaintes avaient été portées contre sa gestion, et bien que ces plaintes n'aient pu être légalement confirmées, Moustapha Effendi a été néanmoins relevé de ses fonctions et transféré à une autre place." In spite of this statement, a short time after the Commissioners left Van Hajji Mustapha Effendi was reinstated in his appointment at Bashkala, as reported in my despatch No. 27, Political, of the 7th September, 1880. The failure to substantiate legally the complaints made against Hajji Mustapha was due solely to the supineness of the Government, not to want of evidence, for when I was at Bashkala information was given to me from all sides as to his perversion of justice, and even the Mutessarif himself inveighed against his malpractices. And the more fact that the Porte should have presented to the Ambassador the statement that he had been relieved from his functions at Bashkala and transferred elsewhere is sufficient proof that it was known that the complaints made against him were well founded, for they certainly would not have yielded even thus far to the representations made if they had not known that the case was a bad one. And the reappointment produced a bad effect in encouraging official misconduct and rendering the people still more discontented and disheartened, because it tended to show that all efforts made for the improvement of the condition of the country could be rendered nugatory by corruption and underhand influence.

I sent yesterday a telegram to the Ambassador to the following effect:—"Last September Armenian Bishop of Bashkala shot a robber who attacked him. He has just been arrested on a charge of murder. I believe this to be a device to remove him on account of his activity. Armenians are much excited. I have advised Government to examine affair as quickly as possible and release him if innocent, and have counselled patience to Armenians."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 87.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 16)
Van, March 29, 1881.

Sir,

THE chief people of Mukus have been with me again this morning, to speak about the Kaïmakam. I have reported the complaints made against him in my despatch No. 14, Political, of the 22nd instant. The people said that, although the Vali wrote to him telling him not to demand the payment by the remaining inhabitants of taxes due by persons who had emigrated, yet he pays no attention, and has said openly that if only one person remained in a village, he would make him pay for all the people who used to live there, and that if the whole country were depopulated he did not care. He said, also, that he had never been more than three months in any former office, but in that time he had always laid waste the place where he was, and he intended to do the same at Mukus. He appears to be a raging madman, and imprisons the chief men on all sides without cause or reason, if they offend him. The complaints against him are not made by Christians alone, but Avdal Bey and Sheikho Bey, Kurdish Chiefs, and a Khalifé, who is reckoned by the Mussulmans as a great saint, and other Moslems, have signed the mazbata against him; and Suleiman Bey, a noted robber and murderer, seems to be his only supporter. The men said, also, that the Vali intended to send Hakki Effendi, a Turk, and Eleazar Agha, an Armenian, as a Commission to inquire into the facts. They, however, objected to these Commissioners, as Hakki Effendi is a connection of the Temur Oglou, who are thought to protect the Kaïmakam, and Eleazar Agha is a weak, time-serving man, who could not be depended upon to be independent, if his colleague wished to distort the facts. They, therefore, begged me to try and get a different Commission appointed.

I went to the Vali this afternoon, and called his attention again to the case, pointing out that the Kaimakam appeared mad, and that the complaints came from Christians and Mussulmans alike, and saying that there was dissatisfaction with the Commissioners that it was proposed to send. His Excellency said that he wished to obtain the truth in the matter, but that he had not himself appointed the Commissioners, but had entrusted their selection to the Idaré Medjlis. He asked whether the people had made any suggestion about whom they wished for Commissioners. I said that they had proposed that they should name one, and had suggested a certain Armenian of Van, and that the Government should appoint the other. The Vali then said that that could not be done, and that he could not over-rule arbitrarily the choice of the Medjlis; but that as the Commissioners could not possibly start for a fortnight, on account of the snow on the road, if I would not mention what I had said to him, so that the Government should not seem to be acting at the dictation of the people, he would try, before the time came, to make some arrangement for a Commission that should be satisfactory to the people. To this I agreed; but it seems to me that the Kaïmakam should be removed as soon as possible, or he may utterly ruin the district. His name is Zia Effendi, and he has only been at Mukus for four or five months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 88.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 343.)
Constantinople, May 2, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Stewart giving an account of his journey between Adana and Aleppo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 88.

Captain Stewart to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 2.)
Aleppo, April 17, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency of my arrival here on the 11th instant, and of my having taken charge of this Consulate.

According to your orders, I followed the coast road from Adalia, and beg to report on it as follows:—

With the exception of the section between Adalia and Alaya, where the Taurus range follows the coast at some distance, the road is generally very mountainous, rough, narrow, and stony. The mountains near the sea are now almost denuded of trees, but that there is still a considerable supply of wood further inland is evident from the timber depôts that are established along the coast. The wood is said to be chiefly exported to Egypt and Syria.

There are many rivers, some of considerable volume, which, except in the few cases where the ancient bridges are still standing, have to be forded. This year, owing to the mild winter, these rivers were comparatively low, indeed, so much was this the case, that the wood-cutters complained they could not get their wood floated down.

With the exception of Selefke, where protection is afforded by a sand-bank, there is no place which can be called a good harbour. Selefke, in that respect, is fairly good, and were a road made to Karaman it would probably become a place of some importance.

The population along the coast consists for the most part of Yurooks or nomads, who visit the coast with their herds of camels and sheep during the winter, leaving again for the Yailas, or mountain grazing-grounds, in the spring. These Yurooks are all, nominally at least, Mahommedans; they, however, appear to hold but lightly to the tenets of their faith, and to regard any religion as almost superfluous. Their members show no signs of decrease, but rather the reverse. This is probably due in a great measure to the rapacity of Turkish Governors, which discourages the people from cultivating, and forces them in self-defence to become pastoral and nomadic. These Yurooks all show a superstitious dread of entering a town or any place where there is a Law Court or Governor.

I, of course, heard the usual complaints about the non-payment of salaries, the amount of the taxes, the impoverishment of the people, &c. In the village of Khoja Yatuk, some six hours from Adalia, the people assured me that they were assessed for the same amount now as they were some years ago, when the village was double or treble its size. How far this was correct I was unable to verify. In the same village many sheep and cattle were said to have died from exposure to the continuous and heavy rains. Judging from the heaps of bones and skeletons lying about it, it is probable there may be some truth in this statement.

At Alaya, the seat of a Kaïmakam, and a considerable town, I found the population mostly Mahommedan. There were a few Greeks, but none of them acquainted with the Greek language. The Mahommedans were said to be exceptionally fanatical. Some six hours further east along the coast among some low hills is the small village of Ali Bey. The inhabitants of this village are all of one family, and are said to be all robbers. They are the dread of the whole neighbourhood, but no steps can be taken against them as they are supposed to be under the protection of some of the Alaya Notables. Anamur, which is a caza in the Ischil Sandjak, consists of a number of villages on a small and somewhat marshy plain between the sea and the hills. The Kaïmakam resides in the village of Chorak, Anamur being merely the name of the district. Judging from the remains of the few ruins and and water channels, this place must have been formerly of some importance. The population is almost entirely Mahommedan.

From the inquiries I made, I am inclined to think that but few, if any, slaves are now disembarked along the coast. Some few years ago I was assured this was the case. The subject is one on which it is difficult to get reliable information.

As for the Redifs who were called in, I was informed that they were coming forward very fairly. Some of the Yurook Redifs were said to have taken to the hills, but their number was insignificant.

At Anamur 6 T. 5L were said to have been paid in two instances for substitutes.

At Kilendria I was present at a warm discussion between the Kaïmakam and some Redif officers from Ermenik, the Redif centre of the district. The officers accused the Kaïmakam of negligence in calling in and forwarding the men. The Kaïmakam excused himself, pleading his inefficient and badly-paid staff of zaptiehs.

The crops everywhere appeared very promising, and should the country escape the locusts there is every reason to believe that the harvest will be a good one.

I regret to have to report that these pests have made their appearance at Nursina, where, however, Abédine Pasha is doing all he can to stamp them out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 89.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 348.)
Constantinople, May 3, 1881.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 325 of the 26th ultimo I inclosed a despatch from Captain Everett, part of which related to the refusal of the Turkish authorities in Erzeroum to allow facilities for an agent of the Relief Committee to examine into the state of the poor in the Sandjak of Bayazid, and I informed your Lordship that the Prime Minister had justified the refusal on the disturbed state of the country, and that the subject was still under discussion between the Ministers and myself.

On the 30th April I received a telegram from Captain Clayton to the effect that the Mutessarif of Bayazid had imprisoned the Committee's examiner of famine work, that the man had since been liberated, but with a written promise to cease work till allowed by the Ottoman Government.

I immediately spoke to the Minister for Foreign Affairs about this extraordinary circumstance. I need not trouble your Lordship with the language I held, but I did not conceal my indignation, nor my view as to the effect on English public opinion of the arrest of an agent for a charitable work which had carried relief to many thousands in the Armenian provinces.

His Excellency himself seemed a little startled at the incident, and promised to telegraph immediately to Bayazid. He proceeded, however, to explain that the view of the local authorities had been that, in consequence of the difficulties with Sheikh Obeidullah, there was much agitation abroad, and that evil-disposed persons might attack and kill a Christian with the object of creating excitement and adding to the disturbed state of the country.

I need hardly remind your Lordship, on the other hand, that whenever I have brought the disturbed state of that portion to the attention of the Porte, I have received the most positive assurances that perfect tranquillity prevailed.

I took the opportunity of urging once more the immediate dismissal of the Mutessarif of Bayazid and that of the Vali of Diarbekir. I was again given to understand that steps would be taken to dismiss these functionaries, but several weeks have elapsed since I thought I had secured this result after an interview which I had with the Prime Minister.

Assim Pasha defended the Vali of Diarbekir, who, he said, was a very worthy man, but admitted, as I understood him, that he was not successful in the particular post which he now occupied. He spoke of the difficulty of finding a successor who would do better, but there are, to my knowledge, several available men whose appointment would give much greater security for fair government than the present Vali, and the fact itself of the removal of a Governor for incapacity would have a most beneficial effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 90.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 359.)
Constantinople, May 9, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Assistant Richards to Colonel Wilson, giving a general report of current events.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Mr. Richards to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 6.) *Sivas, April* 14, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward a few remarks on current events which will, I hope, prove of some interest.

A few days ago Tek Tashak, one of the most notorious robbers and murderers in this country, who has been, as you, Sir, are aware, in Sivas Gaol for upwards of a year and a-half awaiting his trial on various charges, was removed from this town to Kaisarieh *en route* for Adana. On inquiry, I was informed that, although he had been guilty of several acts of brigandage and violence in this vilayet and in that of Angora, yet up to the present time no one had come forward to prosecute here, and that consequently, after considerable delay, a telegram was sent to Adana, inquiring if there were any accusers ready to come forward in that vilayet. The Vali, on receiving an answer in the affirmative, gave orders that the accused should be removed to Adana to undergo trial there, at the same time summoning several Circassians, some twenty in number, to act as his escort, a report having been spread that Tek Tashak's Kurdish supporters were determined to rescue him, cost what it might, the first time he left the town. No news has been received since their departure of the threatened rescue having taken place, so that it is to be hoped that this man, who was once a terror to the country, will be safely removed to Kaisarieh and thence to Adana.

I am also glad to be able to report that the Istinaff Court here has quashed the sentence lately passed by the Bedayet Court against the Armenians concerned in the late riot, pronouncing it to be in every way unjust and contrary to the law by which the Judge passing sentence should have been guided. This Court of Appeal has not as yet given a decision itself on the merits of the case, but I believe will do so very shortly.

I should have informed you, Sir, before of the release of the Armenian prisoners, which occurred some three weeks since, but I was in hopes that a decision would have been arrived at by the Istinaff Court some time ago, in which case I intended to inform you of the release and of the decision of the latter Court at the same time. However, I understand that there is now an immediate prospect of such a decision, which will, in all probability, be much more favourable to the accused. The quashing of the verdict of the Bedayet Court by the Istinaff has of course been hailed with delight by the Armenian community, and not, I am pleased to find, adversely commented on by the Moslems, the greater number of whom are by this time convinced of the injustice of many of the charges. I sincerely hope that this troublesome affair, which has created such undisguisedly hostile feelings on all sides, is now shortly to be fairly and amicably settled.

I have also to inform you that the elections for the Belediyé Medjliss (Municipal Council) are now being held, the competition for the Presidency being unusually brisk this year, no less than five candidates having presented themselves. This Council, the President and members of which hold office for four years, is elected by the people, every man paying 40 piastres yearly direct taxation being entitled to a vote, while candidates for membership must be persons paying 100 piastres yearly direct taxation.

In the Law Courts several members have been transferred from one Court to another, and in a few instances there have been dismissals for incompetency, otherwise there has been no change.

I also wish to bring to your notice a complaint which has recently been preferred by the refugees now in this city, numbering 600 families out of 6,000 scattered throughout the vilayet. It appears that some of them, more especially those coming from Kars itself, have contrived with considerable difficulty to establish themselves in trade here, relying on the promise of the Government that they would not have to pay "tenetton," the tax of 3 per cent. on profits made in trade. Now, however, the tax-collectors have come forward and insist on their paying the impost, in total disregard of the promise made to them. Several of those who have refused to pay have been threatened with imprisonment, but at present the threat has not been carried out. I would beg to suggest, Sir, that this course is both unjust and impolitic. Those of the refugees who have been able to open shops, stalls, &c., are a very small minority, and their praiseworthy efforts to support themselves, instead of being a burden to the Government, should surely be encouraged, and not retarded and shackled at the outset

by the payment of a tax which, however fair and equitable *per se*, is a serious drawback to men who are only just beginning to earn a livelihood.

Latterly I have received no complaints from refugees who have not been established, but, at the same time, I rather attribute that fact to the mild, though protracted nature of the winter, and a consequent diminution in the suffering a severe season brings in its train. On making inquiries lately, I heard that, until recently, large numbers of men, women, and children were living crowded together in roofless barns, the court-yards of mosques, of churches, &c., and were consequently suffering considerably, but, although exposed to the inclemency of the weather, more or less severe, they were not starved, being, in most cases, the object of local charity. That this account is more or less exaggerated is extremely probable, and yet, previous to my departure for Amasia three months or so ago, I was assured by a number of refugees who came to complain that it was true, their assertion being confirmed by what I subsequently heard in other quarters, and saw in one case myself.

The tax-collectors are now hard at work, and meet everywhere with repeated assurances of the impossibility to pay what the Government demands. More particularly the official class is loud in its complaints, there being at the present moment as much as £T. 25,000 owing to members of that body in this sandjak alone, and no immediate prospect of the payment of even a part of it. Imprisonment for inability or refusal to pay taxes is now very frequent, and in many cases much hardship has been endured.

In spite of this general impecuniosity, the Vali has decided to build fresh Government buildings, those at present occupied being in so advanced a stage of disrepair and decay as to be positively unsafe. The engineers, after a careful examination, have decided that without extensive and fundamental repairs these buildings, including the Courts of Justice and the prisons, will not hold out for another year, and that their present occupation is more or less dangerous, although I believe this latter statement refers more especially to the Law Courts, portions of which are almost in a tottering condition. Plans have been drawn for new Government buildings by the Engineer-in-chief of the vilayet, who estimates the cost at £T. 12,000. The Vali, who is very pleased with the plans, is sanguine about the possibility of raising this sum, although at present he has not yet received the necessary authorization from Constantinople. The objection to temporary repairs is that, however extensive they may be, they cannot save the buildings from ultimate decay, but only defer the evil day at considerable expense. That new buildings are very much needed is evident, but that such a large sum as £T. 12,000 could be raised without having recourse to extortion is extremely doubtful. His Excellency the Vali has, however, already taken into consideration several projects for raising the necessary sum.

In conclusion, I will mention a difficulty that has arisen here in consequence of the determination of the Imperial Government to enrol Circassians in future in the regular army. When this determination was announced by the Vali to the various Circassian colonies scattered throughout the vilayet, it created considerable astonishment, and not a little ill-feeling. After some little delay, six men, sent as representatives by their respective colonies, arrived here, and in an interview with the Vali, stated their objections to the recent Imperial Edict, which were as follows, viz.: that on their first immigrating into this country a promise was made them by the Imperial Government to the effect that they, and their children born in Russian territory, would never be liable to military service. They, therefore, citing that promise, now propose that only those amongst them who were born in the Turkish dominions should be enrolled, the rest being held exempt from military service. I understand that the Vali has been in communication with Constantinople on the subject of these objections, but as yet no answer has been received.

I have also to announce the arrival of Abdullah Pasha, Mutessarif of Kharpout, in Sivas, *en route* for that sandjak.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 91.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 360.) *Constantinople, May* 9, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches addressed by Captain Clayton to Major Trotter on the subject of the release of the

Bishop of Bashkala, the measures taken by the Governor against Sheikh Obeidullah, and the collection of taxes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 91.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 17.)
Sir, *Van, April 6, 1881.*

I AM glad to be able to report that the Armenian Bishop of Bashkala, who was arrested on a charge of murder, as reported in my despatch No. 15 of the 20th March, 1881, has been released on bail, and allowed to take up his residence at the house of an Armenian member of the Idaré Medjliss. The case, however, still remains for trial before the Courts, and I will report its progress in due course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 91.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 18.)
Sir, *Van, April 6, 1881.*

THE Local Government is taking salutary measures to prevent trouble being caused by Sheikh Obeidullah and the Kurds. The principal Kurdish Chiefs have been required to find security and give written bonds that they will not go themselves, nor permit their men to go, to join the Sheikh, and that they will inform the Government of all communications that may be made to them by him. Troops are also being pushed forward to the Persian frontier, and the authorities have informed me that reinforcements have been sent for from other vilayets. The result of the steps taken is that very few Kurds have joined the Sheikh from this side, though rumours are current of considerable numbers having collected from the south. Fairly trustworthy information tells of large military preparations on the part of the Persians, and there seems to be some apprehension lest they should intend to take the offensive, and cross the frontier to punish Obeidullah. It is rumoured that the latter has been summoned to Constantinople by the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 91.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 2. Commercial.)
Sir, *Van, April 6, 1881.*

I AM glad to say that information has reached me that telegraphic orders have been received from Constantinople to the effect that steps must be taken to prevent the abuses committed by the troops in collecting taxes, and that therefore the military will be no longer employed on this duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 92.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 361.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 9, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant Chermside, reporting his journey through the Greek district in the south of the Aidin Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 92.

Lieutenant Chermside to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 8.)
Sir, *Aidin Guzel Hissar, April 28, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have recently visited the country to the south of Aidin down to the coast, and thence followed the latter along to Tchesmeh and Smyrna, and so back to Aidin. I visited the Cazas (Kaïmakamliks) of Tchin Ovasi, Melas, Budrun, Istankoi (Kos), Sokhia, Kush Adasi (Scala Nuova, the Nahié (Mudirlik), depending directly on Smyrna, of Sevdi-koui, the Cazas of Sivri-hissar, Tchesmeh, Vourla, Smyrna, the Nahié of Bournova (Smyrna Caza), and the Cazas of Baindyr, Oudamich, Tireh, and Aidin.

With the exceptions of Istan-koui, Vourla, and Tchesmeh, in all these cazas the Moslems, especially among the rural populations, outnumber the Greeks very considerably; even in the principal towns, with the further exceptions of Budrun and Sokhia, in which two places the population is in nearly equal proportions, this is the case.

As your Excellency is aware, I was especially anxious to learn the state of Greek feeling in case of a war; and even if that probability has passed, it may be useful to record what I gathered.

The Greeks in the south, in the Mentesheir Sandjak, are far from numerous. A few are found in the towns of Moghla and Melas, but inland there are very few villages, nor is the replacement of the Turkish littoral population by Greeks developed or accentuated as at Tchesmeh and Vourla, or along the coast to the north of Smyrna up to Edremyt.

The Greeks in this district, few in numbers, are principally to be found in the small villages and farms near the coast, and at the small "scalas," or embarking places. Turkish villages, however, are to be found on the coast, and in the Gulf of Kos Turkish boatmen seem as numerous as the Greek. In the Island of Kos (visited) there are about 9,000 inhabitants, two-thirds of whom are Greeks. The Greeks here, and those on the adjacent mainland, are well spoken of by the Turkish authorities, and get on well with their Moslem neighbours. During the war of independence few, if any, left to take part in it, and the country seems now in a quiet state, and to contain no evidences of any idea among the Greeks as to a rising, nor do there seem to be great fears of outrages by the Turks on them in case of war.

There are, however, no troops in the country, and few available locally for calling out, as the dispatch of Redifs of both "bans" has drained the military resources to a very great extent.

Turks and Greeks of all classes with whom I conversed joined in thinking the chances of political complications in the district as very small. The country is mountainous, the principal range consisting of granite and other primary rocks, the lesser ones of limestone, schists, and volcanic rocks and sandstones, and as the coast is approached, of the same hard limestone which characterizes so many of the islands of the Archipelago. There are, however, numerous fertile valleys. Oil, valonea, raisins, gum, turpentine, and timber are exported; the former great production of oranges and lemons has been arrested, owing to disease of the trees.

Near Melas, and in the Moghla district, numerous little oases of cultivated plains occur among the rugged pine-clad mountains, the latter succeeded by long tracts of forest and scrub-covered hills, grassy plains, marsh and waste land, which lie between them and some sheltered creek or roadstead on the coast, marked only by a few houses, that forms the port at the end of some difficult mule-track from the interior, and which is surrounded by land uncleared for want of population, but abounding in wild olives, and for the most part, if I mistake not, suitable for vine and olive, and even for orange and lemon cultivation.

Coming suddenly upon a little town like Budrun, with its well-built white stone houses, hundreds of acres of gardens and fruit orchards, its vines and olives, one realizes the capabilities of the country, and the desolation want of population, and of industrious population, maintains it in.

From Marmaras (opposite Rhodes), in the Gulfs of Symi, Kos, and Mendelia, and along towards Scala Nuova, are endless little creeks and harbours, the slopes to the sea often gentle and well-watered, and of great promise for agriculture, at present mostly covered by scrub forests, the settlements themselves but farms or hamlets, rarely worthy even of the title of a village. (Djova, Keramos, Budrun (town), Trovanda,

Kuyudjak, Lija, Kullak, Assin, Akbuk, Yoranda, Samsun, Tchniglu, and numerous others I did not visit.)

As might be expected, what commerce there is is in the hands of Greeks and Jews, but the population does not develop rapidly, and for want of it the agricultural and mineral resources of the district are almost totally neglected.

After Scala Nuova, a pretty little town with fairly sheltered roadstead, a place the importance of which has been almost nullified by the Aidin Railway, the district along the coast becomes more Greek, but until Sivri-hissar is passed the Turkish element is, on the whole, always in a large majority. The same dearth of population, and neglect of land near the coast and on the slopes of the mountains that rise from it, are to be noticed beyond Scala Nuova and near the mouth of the Takhtalu River, 30 miles north-west of the latter place. Beyond this the rich and thriving Vourla and Tchesmeh districts are entered, and the evidences of Greek industry and cultivation, which is almost exclusively confined to olives and Sultana raisins, are a pleasing contrast, that indicates clearly what might be done with the rich but desolate districts to the south-east.

In the Tchesmeh Caza the Greeks are in a very decided majority, in that of Vourla perhaps slightly so. Here, as elsewhere, there seem no indications of any preconcerted movement of Greeks, and although it is impossible to predict what an over-excited, ignorant population might do in the event of Greek successes, it is probable that, at most, it would only follow the lead of the neighbouring islands, or of Smyrna and places further to the north.

Both sections of the population, especially the Turks, though imbued with the usual Oriental curiosity as to news, take the matter very apathetically as regards themselves. Not only in Tchesmeh, but in the adjoining districts, a good deal of distress seems likely to result indirectly from the earthquakes. The inhabitants, who, for the most part, do not produce grain, are accustomed at this season to live on advances on their raisin and olive crops. The merchants, who have lost at Tchesmeh and Scio, partly on this account, partly from fear of loans being utilized for building purposes to the neglect of the crops, are not at present ready to make the usual advances.

I visited Tchesmeh. The houses are, with hardly an exception, damaged in all the villages of the district, but except at Katapanagia, most of what was in them is not buried or destroyed, and there is consequently at present inconvenience rather than suffering, and the state of things cannot compare to that in Scio.

The Governor seems apathetic and is ill-spoken of. The inhabitants, especially the Moslems, made complaints as to the unfairness of the distribution by the local Committee and the undue appropriation of relief-timber by the well-to-do. The districts between Smyrna and this do not call for remark.

As regards the Governors, I visited as many as possible, in order to form some estimate of their relative capacities in case of subsequent trouble in their districts. Your Excellency will not be surprised to hear that, as usual, with scarcely any exceptions, they were recent arrivals—many within the last month, and two only having been over a year in their present posts. I found, however, that a considerable proportion of the functionaries (Moslem) came from Greek-speaking districts, and can speak that language. The district I traversed is, or was, considered, as regards insecurity, one of the worst in Turkey. I have much pleasure in stating that I cannot recollect a tour in Turkey in which I met with so few complaints of robbery and outrage. It was in striking contrast to the interior of Anatolia. As regards complaints against local influence and corruption in the Courts, I am sorry to say the universal cry is prevalent.

The combined effect of the new gendarmerie, and of Midhat Pasha's administration, have produced a marked result. If the former is paid, and thus maintained efficient, which, as it is already in arrears of pay, it is to be feared it will not be, and if the latter is retained as Vali, and is not unnecessarily fettered, great and general improvement in the state of this splendid province may be looked for.

The Smyrna police has done a great deal to insure security in that city, and now from all quarters of the sandjaks come reports of the capture of robbers. Near Aidin these are numerous, and since an important capture last month, the efforts of the gendarmes have not been successful, but have, I believe, been honestly and energetically made, while in other districts I was astonished at the degree of security.

At the head-quarters of each caza I found a police-officer, who is to establish a local police for the town, and in the rural districts "gardes-champêtres" were being organized.

The prospects of crops of every sort, *per se*, are exceedingly good. There is, however, fear of future damage from the locust, the young of which are everywhere appearing, more especially in the Melas, Sivri-hissar, Smyrna, Baindyr, Oudamich, Nazilli, and Tireh districts. Among those I have visited orders as to their destruction have been issued to all Sub-Governors, and local Commissions appointed to supervise their effective execution. These orders are being carried out more or less efficiently in the various districts. The absence of the Redifs is very prejudicial to the production of the country, and the new-born security must be maintained to be productive of permanent amelioration.

Roads from Moghla to the Gulf of Kos, from Melas to that of Mendelia, and from Scala Nuova to Ayasluk (Ephesus), on the Aidin Railway, are great *desiderata*, while the inhabitants of the fertile Cayster plain (Baindyr, Tireh, and Oudamich) are most anxious for a branch from the above line to be made up the plain, and have collected a considerable sum towards its construction.

I met with brush-wood and timber, except in the Tchesmeh and parts of the Vourla district, throughout the country visited in quantities forming a pleasing contrast to the supply in the far interior, and found that the forest-land was in some places looked after to a certain extent.

Various minerals occur in the different mountains, and I came across chrome, iron (very good), emery, manganese, argentiferous lead, and lignite. The emery mines are numerous, and many are successfully worked; lignite is used in the steam liquorice works of Messrs. Forbes at Nazilli and Sokhia.

Between Aidin, Moghla, Melas, and the mouth of the Mæander, "Yuruks," or nomads, are not numerous. In the Tchina and Mæander plains, the Aidin, Oudamich, Tireh, Baindyr, Sivri-hissar, and Bournova districts they are so. They are more orderly than those further east, do less damage, and actually pay for the right of pasture; many are wealthy. The most important tribes are the Tekelus, Chepnes, and Burkhans. Attempts are being made, at present, however, rather nominal than real, to settle them. In the mountains are a few settlements of Takhtajis, or traditional wood-cutters, a curious race, with pagan rites and superstitions. What I have seen of them inclines me to believe them to be of identical or kindred origin to the Ansaris of Northern Syria.

The country traversed presents a curious series of contrasts of degrees of development; the Mæander valley, from Denizli to Aidin, with its masses of gardens, figs, olives, almonds, vines, cotton, maize, &c., its lanes and hedgerows, its railway and steam factories, poor and misgoverned as its inhabitants are, contrasts strangely with the same vale below: large uncultivated tracts of rich alluvial soil, marshes, and treeless stretches of corn and pasture land, dotted with great herds of cattle, and the black tents of their wandering proprietors giving it a great resemblance to the plains of Mesopotamia and Northern Syria.

The system of taking the tithes by Government officials last year appears to have resulted everywhere in loss to the Government, though not on such a disastrous scale as in other provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 93.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 370.)
Constantinople, May 10, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Everett to Major Trotter, respecting the arrest of the person sent to the Bayazid Sandjak to examine the condition of the inhabitants prior to distributing funds to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 93.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 8.)
Erzeroum, April 29, 1881.

Sir,

I BEG to inform you that on Saturday last, the 23rd instant, I received a letter from Alashgert with the intelligence that the man whom we had sent to the Bayazid Sandjak, for the purpose of examining the condition of the inhabitants prior to distributing the proceeds of the lottery (see my despatch No. 6 of the 31st March, 1881) had been arrested and imprisoned at Toprak-Kaleh, his papers being taken from him.

Other letters received this morning inform me that the man was arrested at Karabazar, and taken before the Mutessarif of Bayazid at Diadin. The Mutessarif examined him at some length, asking him various questions as to who was buying the wheat, who sent him, &c. The man informed him that he was sent by the English Consul. He was nevertheless put into prison and his papers confiscated. From Diadin he was removed to Kara-Kilissa, and from there to Toprak-Kaleh.

After being detained thirteen days he was liberated, on the distinct understanding that he was to cease altogether from the work until provided with a Government Buryultu. A written promise to this effect was exacted from him.

The man had visited six villages in the vicinity of Diadin prior to his arrest. He found the inhabitants in a very wretched condition, living principally on wild herbs. They had no seed and nothing whatever in their houses. In the prison at Kara-Kilissa were twenty-three Armenians and two Kurds, all natives of Mush, who were passing this place on their way to Russia to seek for work. They were accused of wanting to join the volunteer force, supposed to be preparing in Russian Armenia, but my informant, who may be thoroughly relied on, declares the accusation to be entirely false.

On receiving the first intimation of the imprisonment of our examiner I wrote immediately to the Vali. He answered my letter two days afterwards, and as it implied that before any further distribution could be made, permission from the Sultan would be necessary, I replied, reminding him that the miserable condition of the Bayazid population was nothing new; that for a year past with his approval, and I presumed with that of the Sultan, various distributions had been made from which the present one in no way differed, and that it therefore surprised me that any new order should be required.

Alluding to the imprisonment of our examiner, I said it appeared to me either that the officials of the sandjak had exceeded their duty or that they were acting under orders. If so, I begged that he would communicate them to me, if not, that he would give me a proper Buryultu for the man in question and for two others since appointed. I inclose herewith translations of the letters, to the last of which I have as yet no reply.

As you can, perhaps, understand, the first impulse was to return the money to the donors, inform them of the abominable behaviour of the officials, and have nothing more to do with the business. But in the face of the great poverty which evidently exists in that neighbourhood, both Mr. Cole and I came to the conclusion that, notwithstanding the difficulties, we would still continue to do what we could for the miserable people. I have therefore decided, if the Vali is not able to show me a new order to the effect that I cannot distribute, and will not give me the Buryultu for the men, to start for Bayazid on Thursday next at the latest, and endeavour to finish the work myself. By taking this course I shall either finish it or force the Vali to disclose the motive from which he is acting. At the same time, I shall be able to investigate personally into the matter, and be altogether in a better position to demand the satisfaction which it appears to me is required from an official who has had the impertinence to imprison our examiner after that the latter had informed him that he was sent by me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 93.

Captain Everett to Mustafa Pasha.

(Translation.)
Erzeroum, April 23, 1881.

Excellency,

I HAVE received information that Ghaziros Effendi, a man employed by me in examining the villages, and in distributing some grain to the poor in the Bayazid Sandjak, has been arrested by the officials of the Government and imprisoned, his papers and accounts, &c. being taken from him. If you have already received notice of this fact, I should be glad to know on what charge this man is arrested, and if not, that you will be good enough to make immediate inquiries, and if he is not guilty of any crime, obtain his release.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 93.

Mustafa Pasha to Captain Everett.

(Translation.)
Erzeroum, April $\frac{15}{27}$, 1881.

I HAVE received and read your letter of the $\frac{10}{22}$ April. On the 17th March you asked me for a Buryultu for Ghaziros to send him to the Sandjak of Bayazid to examine and prepare lists of the people. In my answer No. 10 of that date, I said that we had written to the Khardjieh Nazireh (Minister for Foreign Affairs), and further, that we had written again, and that we naturally must wait for an answer. All this we told you. In your letter of the $\frac{10}{22}$ April, you say that you employed Ghaziros Effendi to go to the Sandjak of Bayazid and distribute wheat for the poor, and also that Ghaziros has been arrested, and you request me to let you know whether we have information on the subject.

You know that in Turkey it is necessary to receive an order from the Sultan to permit distributions to be made, after which you will do these things through the Government here. According to our first correspondence of the 17th March, we told you that, until we had an order from the Sultan, the case must be delayed, and afterwards you sent Ghaziros Effendi to Bayazid without consulting us. Thus we do not know of his having been imprisoned. I am now writing to the Mutessarif of Bayazid.

(Signed) MUSTAFA.

Inclosure 4 in No. 93.

Captain Everett to Mustafa Pasha.

(Translation.)
April 28, 1881.

Excellency,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the $\frac{15}{27}$th April. In reply, I beg to remind you that the impoverished condition of the inhabitants of the Bayazid Sandjak is no new thing. For more than a year past several distributions, always attended with previous examinations, have been made in that sandjak and elsewhere by the agents of the different committees, both foreign and national.

That these previous examinations and distributions were made with your knowledge is an undoubted fact, and though I cannot personally vouch for it, it may nevertheless be concluded that the efforts which have been made during the past year by foreigners and others, to relieve the sufferers in that sandjak and elsewhere, have hitherto met with the entire approval of His Majesty the Sultan.

It surprises me, therefore, that for the present distribution, which is only one of a series, a fresh order from His Majesty the Sultan should be necessary.

My object in applying to you for a Buryultu for Ghaziros Effendi was merely that he might obtain the assistance and aid of the officials of the sandjak. Certainly I had no intention to ask again for a permission which had been tacitly accorded me more than a year ago, and on which I have acted so many times since without any objection being made.

But on this occasion, according to the information I have received, my examiner has been summarily stopped and imprisoned, and his papers taken from him, while in the execution of this charitable work. It is evident, therefore, either that the officials

of the Bayazid Sandjak have exceeded their duty, or that they are acting under some new order which has not been communicated to me.

If this be so, I should be greatly obliged to your Excellency if you would inform me of the nature of this order, for my future guidance, because if I am no longer to be permitted to assist the subjects of His Majesty the Sultan, it will be necessary for me to inform my Government, as well as the donors of the charity, to whom the money must be returned.

If, on the other hand, no fresh order exists, I should be obliged if you will give me some sort of protection to enable the three men, named in the margin,* to proceed with the work unmolested.

Finally, I would point out to you that in the Vilayet of Van no sort of objection is made to the distribution conducted at this moment by Captain Clayton, Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 94.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 371.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 10, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Biliotti, reporting on the district of Kerassond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 94.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 22.)
Sir, *Trebizond, April 30, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in copy and translation, another petition, which was transmitted to me by the inhabitants of the Canton of Kechab, in the district of Kerassond.

It bears the seals of twelve Mussulman and Christian villages, and those of forty-nine Mussulman and six Christian inhabitants.

They state that the acts against property, honour, and life perpetrated by the sons of a certain Tekbachioglou are no longer endurable, and that they must remove themselves elsewhere if their oppressors are not sent out of the district.

A similar petition was addressed to the Governor-General, who informed me, on my speaking to him on the subject, that he had forwarded it to the Kaïmakam of Kerassond with identical instructions as those given in the preceding case of Ak-Keui.

I take the liberty to again point out, as I have done in former despatches, that order and tranquillity cannot be restored in this province by ordinary means. Judicial Courts are not adequate to deal with the situation. Special measures should be adopted.

If it be deemed unadvisable to increase the powers of the Vali, a Special Commission should be empowered to summarily deal with individuals, a number of whom are to be found in each nahié, who trouble public tranquillity and order.

So long as no decision of some sort is taken in this direction, the population are doomed to insufferable misery.

This is a truth of which the Porte should not entertain the slightest doubt.

If, as I believe, the Governor-General acts honestly, he must have expressed the same conviction to his Government.

The more time elapses the more increase the sufferings and the dissatisfaction of the populations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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* Ghazlros Effendi, Tissay Effendi, and Sukias Effendi.

Inclosure 2 in No. 94.

Petition from the Inhabitants of Keshab.

(Translation.)
To the British Consul at Trebizond,

WE, inhabitants of all the villages of the Nahié of Kechab, in the district of Kerassond, Province of Trebizond, beg to submit to you that Tekbachioglou Mustapha Aga's sons, Talib Aga, Ali Aga, Aziz Effendi, and Shukri Aga, and his nephew Emin Aga, who are descendants of Dereheys, and reside in the village of Vanezir, in our nahié, are long since perpetrating such acts of oppression, vexation, and contemptuous treatment against the whole of the population, that there is no security for property, life, and honour, and that they cause all the disorders which take place in our nahié.

Some of the above-mentioned individuals, accompanied by a set of miscreants, forcibly enter our dwelling, carry off to the mountains or other places our wives and daughters, whom they dishonour; they lift our cattle, set fire to our houses, plunder our property, destroy our vineyards and gardens, and murder us, so that there is no act of oppression and contemptuous treatment to which all of us are not subjected on their part.

As we can no longer live in our nahié and endure the oppression and ignominy which they are heaping upon us, the only option left to us is to abandon our property and remove, together with our wives and children, to some other spot.

We therefore beg that either the forementioned Tekbachioglou's sons and their accomplices be sent out of our nahié, or, in order to restore to us tranquillity and security for property, life, and honour, that we should ourselves be removed elsewhere.

(Follow 12 seals of Mussulman and Christian villages, 49 Mussulman private seals, and 6 Christian ditto.)

A copy is sent to the Governor-General of Trebizond.

No. 95.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 372.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 10, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches addressed by Captain Clayton to Major Trotter reporting the measures taken by Government with reference to Sheikh Obeidullah and the case of the Kaïmakam of Mukus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 95.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 10.)
Sir, *Van, April 12, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a Proclamation which has been issued to-day by the Vali, with translation. His Excellency has informed me that very strict orders have been received from Constantinople to take all steps possible to prevent Sheikh Obeidullah from making a fresh expedition against the Persians, and that a letter has been received from the Sheikh to the effect that he recognizes it as his duty to obey the orders of the Sultan, as being the Commander of the Faithful, and that, as he has now understood that it is against the Sultan's wish that hostilities should be carried on against the Persians, he will refrain from any movement. He, however, says that he is unable to proceed to Constantinople.

It remains of course to be seen whether the Sheikh's submission is anything more than verbal, but it is likely that he may find it advisable to remain quiet, as the exertions of the Turkish Government will probably have the effect of keeping back the Kurds on this side, and the Persian preparations are reported to be on a considerable scale.

I have heard on pretty good authority that the Sheikh has imprisoned his eldest son, Mehmed Sadik, having discovered that he was conspiring with a Kurdish Khan residing near Salmast against himself. Father and son have long been on indifferent terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 95.

Proclamation by Governor-General of Van.

(Translation.)

ATTENTION is called to the fact that the eminent Sheikh Obeidullah, intending to cross the Persian frontier, has issued Proclamations to the effect that his enterprise has the consent and approval of the Imperial Government, and that, owing to these publications, some Ashirets have been seduced into making preparations to cross the Persian frontier; but, as it is evident, the Imperial Government is always on good terms with the Persian Government as a neighbouring Power, it is therefore necessary for the Imperial Government to maintain friendly relations with it, and it is also evident that conduct of this kind is quite contrary to the wishes of the Government, the functionaries of the Imperial Government therefore intend and purpose, according to the instructions and orders they receive from the Government, to guard the frontier and to keep order. If, in spite of this sincere intention, seditious suggestions and allurements are spread abroad, no attention should be paid to them, and those who act in a contrary manner will have to undergo punishment according to the law. The above-mentioned publications, namely, with regard to the objectionable movements, do not correspond with the sublime wishes of the Government. We, therefore, officially deny them, wishing that no one should be found taking an offensive attitude through being seduced by publications of that kind, but that everybody should occupy himself with his labour in the field, profession, or industry, being assured that all those who act contrary to this advice will fall under severe responsibility, for which purpose this Proclamation has been published.

(Signed) HASSAN,
Governor-General of the Vilayet of Van.

March 29, 1297 (*April* 10, 1881).

Inclosure 3 in No. 95.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 20.)

Sir, *Van, April* 12, 1881.

WITH reference to the subject of the Kaïmakam of Mukus, spoken of in my despatches No. 14 of the 22nd March, and No. 16 of the 29th March, 1881, I have the honour to report that the Vali informed me to-day that he had summoned the Kaïmakam to Van that his case might be inquired into. I am glad that the Vali has determined to take this step, and I think it right to say that it seems to me that his Excellency is now really trying to act for the best under very difficult circumstances, being hampered by orders from Constantinople, financial difficulties, the independence of the military and judicial authorities, and the conflicting influences of Moslems and Christians, as to have very little power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 96.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 16.)

(No. 7. Confidential.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, April* 22, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on Saturday last, the 16th instant, three Armenians, two of whom declare themselves to be Russian subjects, were

brought under escort to Erzeroum from Bayazid, charged with having in their possession papers and letters of a revolutionary character, together with some photographs of themselves in Circassian uniform, under each of which some Turkish words are written in Armenian letters, meaning "one who is ready to sacrifice himself for the country."

On their arrival here the men were imprisoned, and a Court of Inquiry instituted to conduct an examination, which still continues.

It appears that they were taken near Bayazid. The news of their capture being forwarded to Major Kamsaragan, Russian Vice-Consul at Van, he immediately telegraphed to M. Obermüller, Russian Consul-General here, that some Russian subjects, Armenians, had been imprisoned at Van for not having passports, that he had caused them to be released, and that hearing they had been recaptured in the Sandjak of Bayazid, he now requested M. Obermüller to obtain their release and send them over the frontier. M. Obermüller, however, is a bitter enemy of Major Kamsaragan and, as you know, no friend to the Armenians. Instead, therefore, of taking steps to obtain their release, he went straight to the Vali and informed him of the contents of Major Kamsaragan's telegram. The Vali then ordered the Mutessarif of Bayazid to send the men to Erzeroum immediately.

I called on the Vali to endeavour to obtain further information on this matter, and he told me that among the papers found on the men was a letter from the Armenian Bishop of Kars to the Armenian Bishop of Bitlis, in which the former deprecated the cowardly conduct of the Armenians on their side of the frontier in so tamely bearing oppression, and exhorted them to take a more manly course. The Vali also spoke very strongly against Major Kamsaragan, whom he credited with being the principal author of the bad feeling existing in the country.

On Monday last Mgr. Ormanian, the Armenian Bishop here, called on M. Obermüller, begging him to obtain the release of the prisoners, but M. Obermüller said he would make no attempt whatever to do so; that the men were without any papers identifying them as Russian subjects, and therefore he could not recognize them as such.

In conversing with M. Obermüller he invariably dilates on the chance thus afforded him of being able to damage the reputation of Major Kamsaragan and revenge himself on the Armenians. He tells me that the latter persist in the idea that 40,000 Russians are coming over this year to help them, an idea which M. Obermüller says is quite erroneous.

M. Obermüller also declares that Major Kamsaragan is, and has been, acting altogether contrary to his instructions and the policy of his Government. As, however, M. Obermüller is on the point of being removed it is, perhaps, questionable whether he is as well instructed as his colleague.

So soon as I can obtain accurate information I will forward you further details.

Colonel Danet, the new Russian Consul-General, is now at Tiflis, and is expected to arrive here in about ten days' time.

Two battalions of infantry, a battery of four mountain guns, and some cavalry have been sent to the Sandjak of Bayazid, disposed thus: One battalion and the guns to Bayazid, one battalion to Bulanyk, and the cavalry scattered in small detachments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 97.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 377.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 13, 1881.

I FORWARDED to your Lordship by last messenger, in my despatch No. 371 of the 10th instant, a despatch from Mr. Biliotti, relative to the oppression prevailing in the district of Kerassond.

Mr. Biliotti states that the ordinary laws will not suffice to put down the existing disorders, and that a Special Commission should be sent by the Porte.

Experience has shown me that it would be perfectly useless to press such a measure at the present moment on the Sublime Porte. All efforts in this direction have failed. I am not in a position to say whether it is the present Ministry which is to blame, or whether the evil lies deeper; but your Lordship is aware that no remon-

strances as to the inhuman treatment of the population are of any avail. The Turkish Government is either blind, or deaf, or indifferent, and has apparently become callous to the constant remonstrances which are made.

It is possible that when the Turkish Government has settled its external difficulties, it may show greater disposition and energy in endeavouring to reform the administration in Asia Minor, but I entertain no sanguine expectations in this respect.

I have the honour to-day to inclose two further despatches from Mr. Biliotti on the subject, of which I will write by next messenger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 97.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 21.) *Trebizond, April 20, 1881.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy and translation of a petition, which was addressed by the Mussulman and non-Mussulman community of Ak-keui, in the district of Kerassond, to myself and to the French and Russian Consuls here. The first of my colleagues has not received it, and I have no information from the second.

Georgi Vassiliad, who signs the petition on behalf of the inhabitants, is the same Vassiloglou who accompanied me in my journey, and whose storehouse was plundered at that time, in retaliation, as mentioned in my despatch No. 15 of the 1st October, 1880.

The purport of the petition is, that my visit in their canton, which was followed by that of the Kaïmakam of Kerassond, brought to light the acts of oppression which were perpetrated by the magnates of the place, but that as no remedy has yet been adopted they now suffer to a higher degree than they formerly did, the magnates, who were awed for the time, having been encouraged by impunity; and I believe the statement of the petitioners to be quite true.

As they speak of my having promised to save them from the hands of their oppressors, I may mention that I never made a similar promise, but that I merely held out to them the hope that the Porte, on being informed of the real condition of the district, might adopt remedial measures.

When I personally handed to the Vali copy of this petition, he did not disguise his being vexed that Ottoman subjects should apply to foreign authorities in order to obtain the ends which they have in view. His first impulse was to return to me the copy of the petition, on the ground that it was not worthy of consideration, no facts being mentioned therein. But on my observing to him that as the petitioners referred to an inquiry made by the Kaïmakam, which officially established the state of things in that canton, the repetition of known facts was superfluous, he somewhat reluctantly accepted the document, saying that the only measure which he could take was to send it to the Kaïmakam of Kerassond, which he did, instructing him to inform the petitioners that no other course was open to them but to bring before the judicial authorities separate actions for each case in which they considered to have been wronged.

Sirri Pasha has no power to do anything more in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 97.

Petition from the Inhabitants of Ak-Keui.

(Translation.)

To the British, Russian, and French Consuls at Trebizond.

WE, Mussulman and Christian inhabitants of the Nahié of Ak-Keui, in the district of Kerassond, have always been faithful subjects of the Sultan, and pride ourselves to have always offered prayers for the prosperity of the Empire.

While we were enduring the vexations of native magnates the British Consul of Trebizond visited our district, inquired into our condition, and promised to save us from the hands of these oppressors. While we were expecting the fulfilment of this promise, the Kaïmakam of Kerassond, Tahir Bey, after inspecting himself our nahié, proceeded to the capital in order to expose verbally to his superiors the real state of things.

The magnates being awed by the inquiries, we lived in the meanwhile almost peaceably; but when they and their followers heard, on Tahir Bey's return from the capital, that all his proceedings had led to no result, they resumed their acts of oppression.

The British Consul having given us to understand that reforms were to be introduced in Anatolia, we unveiled to him the greatest secrets of our hearts, in the hope that our grievances would be redressed. Unluckily, far from deriving any benefit from our disclosures, increased sufferings resulted for us. Our oppressors did not expect that we should have dared to expose the wrongs which they inflicted on us; they now know the acts of oppression perpetrated by each of them with which they were not acquainted before, and seeing that nothing was done on our behalf they have increased their persecution against us, and avail themselves of all opportunities to ill-treat us. We are so placed that there is no security for property, honour, and life. The first (functionary) having caused the water to become turbid, and the second having collected the fish, our lives are now in the hands of the ruffians who surround the magnates, and of this we have already seen some signs.

Ah! are there no eyes to see, and no ears to hear the miserable condition of unfortunate people. Are we to renounce all hope, and is the door of compassion closed for us? We do not think so, and hope. We first confide ourselves to Divine Providence, then to your justice and commiseration. We all beg of you to protect our lives, honour, and property. If you do not do so, we shall find ourselves in the necessity to have recourse to other protection. We address to you the present petition in the hope that we may be got out of the clutches of the forementioned miscreants, and we beg you to employ such means as you may deem best to attain our object.

The Representative of the Mussulman and non-Mussulman community,
(Signed) GIORGIOS VASSILIADES.

March $\frac{15}{27}$, 1881.

Inclosure 3 in No. 97.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 20.) *Trebizond, April 28, 1881.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, translation of a letter addressed on the 17th instant by the Protestants of Ordoo to the heads of their community at Trebizond, and which was presented to me on the 19th.

They therein mention that they have been so persecuted, ill-treated, and threatened by some Greeks of that place as to be compelled to close their church and school.

The petitions referred to in the same letter as having been forwarded to the Vali and Consuls never reached their destinations.

Being that day too unwell to personally call on the Governor-General, as I always do in cases of this nature, and considering the present one as very urgent, I brought it in writing to his knowledge, begging him at the same time to wire to the Kaïmakam of Ordoo to put a stop to the persecution of which the Protestants were the object, and to have the culprits punished.

The Vali, who had heard nothing on the subject before my communication, acted on my suggestion, but objects to my sending to him "takrirs" on cases concerning Ottoman subjects.

May I, therefore, beg that your Excellency will kindly instruct me whether I am justified to call, if need be, in an official note, the attention of the Vali to the violation, in the province under his administration, of important clauses of existing Treaties.

Another letter, dated Ordoo, the 26th instant, was this morning placed in my hands by the preacher at Trebizond.

It is therein mentioned by the Protestants of Ordoo that, on the receipt of the Governor-General's telegram, the Kaïmakam told them to open their church, which

they did; but that the Greek Protestants are prevented from fear to join the congregation, and that they are, even now, ill-treated in the streets.

As I am about to close my despatch, Mr. Marengo, my Dragoman, who is at the same time American Consular Agent, and as such also interfered on behalf of the Protestants in question, gives me the inclosed abstract from a letter which he has just received from his brother, who is at Ordoo. He being a Roman Catholic, his statement can be accepted as that of an impartial witness. He confirms the reports of the Protestants, and adds that a great excitement prevails at Ordoo, and that unpleasant consequences may result if serious measures are not adopted.

It being too late for me to call to-day on the Vali, and not wishing, after his objection, to again write to him officially on the same matter before receiving your Excellency's instructions, I am unable to communicate to him before to-morrow the last information which I have received from Ordoo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 4 in No. 97.

The Protestants of Ordoo to the Heads of the Protestant Community at Trebizond.

(Translation.)
Dear Sirs, *Ordoo, April* 17, 1881.

I WRITE this letter in haste and with great sorrow. Lately the Greeks have been so enraged against us that we have no other option but to close the church. For the last four weeks they have been stoning the church on Sundays and throwing stones at us as we return home; they curse, affront, insult, and strike us all along the streets.

As we were departing from church this evening they surrounded and attacked us, ill-treated and struck myself and five or six of our brothers. After receiving a cuff, I escaped with great difficulty, and obtained from the authorities the assistance of a zaptieh, but the persons arrested were released, and we were advised to present, on the following day, a formal petition, with promise that justice would be rendered to us.

We intended at first to telegraph to you, but availing ourselves of the departure of the steamer, we reported these facts to the Consuls and the Vali. Do whatever you can, and save us. Some of our brothers have been beaten; others threatened with arms.

We intend to call to-morrow on the authorities, but the protectors of religious freedom should use their influence on our behalf. We beg to inform you that the church and school are closed, and that we are unable to open them owing to the persecution of the Greeks; we walk and sleep in dread.

We brought the above facts to the notice of the Greek Bishop, but the persecution increased.

Please to cause telegraphic orders to be forwarded. We remit to you a lira to defray expenses.

Mr. Marengo is not here just now; he will write on his return.

The centre of meetings are the café and tavern of Fidangoorogloo, which is near our church. Our persecutors are: Fidangoorogloo Andreas and his son Nicola, Hadji Ghorghor Hatchiga, and others whose names we do not know.

(Follow signatures of 4 Armenian and 7 Greek Protestants.)

P.S.—It being two hours after sunset, our other brothers are not present.

Inclosure 5 in No. 97.

Mr. Agopas to Mr. Adjighian.

(Translation.)
Dear Father, *Ordoo, April* $\frac{14}{26}$, 1881.

YOUR letters were duly received. On the arrival of the Vali's telegram, the authorities here called and asked me to give them the names of our persecutors.

I replied, whose names can I mention? I don't know those of several of them; my enemy is the Greek Bishop, for having verbally and in writing applied to him in due time; he did not punish the aggressors, who were encouraged in the persecution; the promoter of the outrage is, therefore, the Greek Bishop.

The Administrative Council, having approved my reply, addressed a "teskéré" to the Bishop, inviting him to make known the names of the aggressors, and the motive of the persecution.

Two days later, having again called on the Kaïmakam, he told me that he had not yet received a reply, and that if he were to write again, the Bishop would put forward Easter holidays as a pretext. I must, therefore, have patience for some time more.

On my observing to the Governor that our church was closed, he told me not to be afraid, and to open it, and if any disturbance occurred, to bring it to his knowledge.

We have opened the church, but our Greek brothers are prevented from fear to frequent it. We Armenian Protestants are not molested, but Greek Protestants are insulted and cursed when walking in the streets, and the children are stoning them at the instigation or their parents. Ordoo is like a theatre, on which we are in evidence.

Our brothers unanimously beg me to write to you, to the head of the community, and to the Consuls, who are the protectors of religious freedom, that our condition is insufferable, and to ask you to inform us how the Vali intends to settle this matter.

I have telegraphed to-day to Erzeroum, begging that you should be authorized by telegram to come here for a month to assist me. Please to start by the first steamer departing after you receive the order, and be furnished with letters of recommendation from the Consuls and the authorities of Trebizond, in order to be able to bring to their senses these barbarian Greeks.

There is a great excitement, and it is not advisable to neglect the affair, for several have not come forward owing to fear.

The statistical list of our community will be sent to you as soon as I am free to do so.

We shall be happy to make your acquaintance on the present occasion.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) AGOPAS.

Inclosure 6 in No. 97.

Mr. J. B. Marengo to his Brother.

(Extrait.) *Ordou, le 26 Avril*, 1881.

LES Protestants d'ici sont molestés par les Grecs, les enfants et les jeunes gens vont jusqu'à leur chapelle les insulter et les menacer; il y a quatre Dimanches qu'ils sont attendus à la sortie de l'église, et qu'ils sont poursuivis de "Yiouha," d'injures, de menaces, et même de voies de fait, jusqu'à leur prêtre ou "vaïzdji," qui a été souffleté.

Ils se sont adressés à l'Evêque Grec et tout dernièrement ils ont porté plainte au Caïmacam; mais l'affaire n'a pas été apaisée. Je crois que c'est l'Evêque Grec qui les engage à agir de cette manière, car il aurait pu donner des ordres sévères à ses ouailles de ne pas insulter une autre religion. J'ai eu l'occasion de le voir au sujet d'une affaire de faucaille et de mariage. Il est très arriéré, et d'après ce que j'ai su de personnes très dignes de foi, il se trouve tous les soirs en état d'ivresse. D'un tel personnage on peut attendre tout. Hier en venant de l'intérieur j'ai rencontré un gamin de 15 ou 16 ans, ivre, tenant d'une main un pistolet vide et un petit couteau de l'autre, ne pouvant pas se tenir sur pied, blasphémant la religion Protestante et disant qu'il voulait tuer tous les Protestants.

Il y a deux Dimanches que par hasard je passais lorsque les Protestants sortaient de leur église; il y avait sans exagération 200 personnes qui les insultaient et leur jetaient des pierres; je m'élançai au milieu d'eux, et la plus part se retirèrent. Mais je vois que les esprits sont très excités, et si on prend pas de mesures sérieuses il arrivera des conséquences très désagréables.

No. 98.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 378.)
My Lord,
Constantinople, May 13, 1881

WITH reference to my despatch No. 348 of the 3rd instant, forwarding copy of Captain Everett's despatch No. 8 of the 29th ultimo, respecting the imprisonment by the Mutessarif of Bayazid of the person whom he had sent to distribute charity among the destitute peasantry of that district, I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum by Mr. Plunkett describing the interview he had yesterday with Assim Pasha on this subject.

I am happy to be able to add that a telegram reached me last night from Captain Everett, stating that he had already arranged the famine business satisfactorily with the Vali, and was to start yesterday for Bayazid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Memorandum by Mr. Plunkett.

IN compliance with your Excellency's instructions, I called to-day upon Assim Pasha, and informed his Excellency that you had learnt with surprise and regret that, in spite of your earnest protestations on this subject, no serious steps had as yet been taken with regard to Captain Everett's complaints against the Mutessarif of Bayazid for having imprisoned the person deputed by the Consul to distribute alms, collected in England, for the benefit of the starving peasantry of that district. I said that you had instructed me to express to him in the strongest language how grieved you were at this want of attention to your representations, and I added that you must insist on steps being at once taken for putting an end to a state of things which was as little courteous to England, who had subscribed the money, as it was little creditable to the Turkish authorities, who were thus preventing the distribution amongst their own people of the charity for which there was such great need.

I then read to Assim Pasha the Memorandum hereto annexed, which had been prepared on Captain Everett's despatch No. 8 of the 29th ultimo, showing the unjustifiable conduct of the Mutessarif in this affair, and I added the expression of your painful surprise that, after such earnest representations as you had already made, his Excellency should have informed the Dragoman yesterday that he had asked, by the post, for explanations. This surely was a case which demanded prompter action than could result from any written communications with such distant places. It should be treated by telegraph, and without delay.

Assim Pasha said there must be a misapprehension. He had not only written by the post, but had also telegraphed to the local authorities; and he at once sent for his Secretary, and desired him to make extracts from the Memorandum I had read, and to cause a further telegram to be sent at once to the Vali.

Assim Pasha begged me to assure your Excellency that he sincerely regretted the difficulty which had arisen, the possible evil effects of which on English public opinion he could easily understand. He would do his best to see the affair arranged promptly; but he would give no further definite reply till he had received the explanations asked for from the local authorities.

I objected that this was not a mere case of formal inquiry; something more definite must be done. An agent of a British Consul had been arrested while engaged on an errand of charity, and unjustly imprisoned for thirteen days. Permission must be given for his at once continuing his duties, and every facility must be extended to Her Majesty's Consul for carrying on the charitable work on which he was engaged.

Assim Pasha said that the Ottoman Government highly appreciated the valuable assistance which had been derived from British charity, and again begged me to assure your Excellency that he would see that this regrettable incident should be set straight without delay.

On leaving Assim Pasha I went to Refaat Bey, the Secretary-General of Foreign Affairs, and repeated to him the substance of my conversation with the Minister.

He promised to speak also to Assim Pasha, and to explain to him the importance of giving satisfaction to your Excellency's demands in this matter.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Constantinople, May 12, 1881.

No. 99.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 383.)
My Lord,
Constantinople, May 15, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Colonel Wilson, inclosing a Memorandum on the Catholicates of Sis and Etchmiadzin, together with a French translation of the Armenian "Règlement."

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 99.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 11.)
Sir,
Smyrna, May 10, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a Memorandum on the Armenian Catholicates of Sis and Etchmiadzin. The subject is somewhat obscure, and one upon which it is difficult to obtain reliable information; I have, however, endeavoured to give an impartial view of the questions at issue from the best sources available to me.

I have written somewhat fully, as it is probable that, if the European Powers decide to press upon the Porte the acceptance of a Constitution for the provinces inhabited by Armenians, a discussion may arise as to the relative claims to spiritual supremacy of Sis and Etchmiadzin.

A discussion would also almost certainly arise with regard to the authority of the Armenian National Constitution in the reconstituted provinces, and I therefore forward a résumé of that Constitution, which was supplied to me by the Patriarch of Constantinople.

I am having a literal translation of the Constitution made, but as this will take some time, I would beg to suggest that the paper now forwarded be printed and some copies supplied to me.

I need not point out to your Excellency the difficulties which would arise in any newly-constituted provinces if the Armenian Episcopate and priesthood were entirely under the influence of the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin, who at any moment might use his power to further political aims.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 99.

Memorandum on the Armenian Catholicates of Sis and Etchmiadzin.

CHRISTIANITY appears to have been introduced into Armenia at a very early period, but it did not become the State religion until A.D. 267, when the King, Tiridates, the Great, was converted by St. Gregory, the Illuminator. St. Gregory, who was himself a Prince of the reigning Arsacid family, but descended from a collateral branch, is variously stated to have been consecrated Catholicos of the Armenians at Sis, at Cesarea of Cappadocia, and at Cesarea of Cilicia. He established the seat of the Catholicate at Vagharschabad, then the national capital, and there it remained until A.D. 152. The church at Vagharschabad was called Etchmiadzin, from the supposed apparition of Christ to St. Gregory, and this name has supplanted the older ones. In 452 the seat was removed to Tovin, which was for several centuries the principal town in Armenia and the residence of the Governors appointed by the Kings of Persia and the Caliphs. The last Arsacid King was deposed by Persia in A.D. 428, and the Arabs conquered Armenia in A.D. 639. The seat remained at Tovin until A.D. 924, 472 years,

when it was transferred to Zoroi-Vank. During a portion of this period Armenia was divided into two provinces, and at one time there were two Catholikoi, one for each province.

From A.D. 924 to A.D. 1290, Armenia was the scene of almost constant warfare between Greeks, Persians, Arabs, and Selyik Turks; the country was split up into small divisions of varying size, and the seat of the Catholicate was frequently moved. During this period of 366 years there were no less than eighteen transfers, and in A.D. 1085 there were four Catholikoi. Amongst the places selected as the seat were Ani, Ahtamar, and Sebaste (Sivas).

In 1290 the seat of the Catholicate was captured by the Egyptians, and the Catholicos, Stephen IV, taken prisoner to Egypt. On his death, in A.D. 1294, the seat was established at Sis, the capital of the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia, and there it remained until 1441, when a section of the Armenian clergy determined to transfer it to Etchmiadzin. Gregory IX, consecrated Catholicos in A.D. 1440, refused to remove from Sis, and the Armenians then proceeded to elect a new Catholicos for Etchmiadzin. The new Catholicos was never recognized by Gregory IX. Since 1441 there have always been the two lines of Catholikoi at Sis and Etchmiadzin.

I have been unable to trace the causes which led to the re-establishment of the Catholicate at Etchmiadzin, and to discover whether the change was due to the action of an active minority or to the wishes of the mass of the Armenian people. At the time it was made there was a large Armenian population south of the Taurus; in Cilicia, the Giour-Dagh, Aleppo, and Antioch, which would have been very distant from its spiritual Chief had Gregory IX removed to Etchmiadzin. I can only surmise that the new Catholicate was established in consequence of the political state of the country and the difficulties of inter-communication, which had previously led to the appointment of four Catholikoi at the same time.

It would appear from the above details, and from the general tenour of Armenian history that, though Etchmiadzin was always reverenced as the mother church of Armenia, no political importance was attached to it, and that its Catholicos never claimed any spiritual supremacy until the present century. It was also by no means uncommon for more than one Catholicos to be exercising jurisdiction over separate branches of the Church at the same time. In fact, for nearly 1,000 years, from A.D. 452 to A.D. 1441, there was never a Catholicos of Etchmiadzin; and the true succession afterwards remained at Sis, Gregory IX, who for one year was sole Catholicos, having thrown in his lot with the Cilician Armenians, and refused to move his seat.

On the capture of Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks in A.D. 1453, or soon after, Mahomet II appointed the then Bishop of Brusa Patriarch of the Armenians, with powers somewhat similar to those granted to the Greek Patriarch. There was this difference, however, that the Greek Patriarch was spiritual as well as temporal head of the Greek subjects, the Armenian Patriarch only temporal head of the Armenians. Hence arose, in after years, striving after spiritual power on the part of the Patriarchs, and this again eventually led to the action of the laity twenty years ago and the adoption of the present Constitution. The last movement was really directed against the Patriarchate and the clergy of Stamboul, who had succeeded in acquiring complete temporal and spiritual control over the people.

Etchmiadzin did not come into the possession of the Turks until the reign of Selim I (1512-1520), or more than fifty years after the fall of Constantinople, and the first Patriarch was consecrated at Sis. After the capture of Etchmiadzin by the Russians the influence of the Catholicos increased, and he began gradually to claim spiritual jurisdiction over the whole Armenian Church, even going so far as to endeavour to obtain the appointment of a recognized Agent at Constantinople. This the Porte refused to allow.

I am unable, with my present means, to trace the history of the last sixty years, but it is said that the Patriarch at Constantinople acknowledged the spiritual supremacy of Etchmiadzin between forty and fifty years ago. It is possible that this submission was made during the occupation of Sis and Cilicia by the Egyptians under Ibrahim Pacha, and when the presence of Russian troops on the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles made the influence of Russia supreme. It is only, however, within the last ten years that a vigorous attack has been made on the Sis Catholicate by the Catholics of Etchmiadzin. Before that period Sis had equal spiritual powers with Etchmiadzin. The present Patriarch, Nerses, was consecrated Bishop at Sis, and his consecration was looked upon as legal at Etchmiadzin when, as a Bishop, he assisted at the installation of the present Catholicos of that place. When raised to the Patriarchate, Monseigneur Nerses was reconsecrated at Etchmiadzin. The present Catholicos of Etchmiadzin has

adopted the extreme measure of requiring every Bishop, before ordination, to take oath of spiritual allegiance to himself, and to promise to hold all consecrations by the Catholicos of Sis as illegal.

It is presumed that such oath and promise were made by the present Patriarch at Constantinople; at any rate, the joint action of the Patriarch and Catholicos of Etchmiadzin has led to the existing state of affairs in the Sis Catholicate. For some years the Sis Catholicos has, as usual, exercised the right, which he has possessed from time immemorial, of consecrating and nominating Bishops within the boundaries of his Catholicate, but the Patriarch, in his capacity of temporal Chief of the Armenians, has always induced the Porte to refuse to recognize these Bishops, and they have in consequence no legal status in the provinces. On the other hand, the Sis Catholicos will not acknowledge the Bishops consecrated at Etchmiadzin who are selected by the Patriarch. The Sis Catholicate has thus for some time been without a properly constituted and legal Episcopate and priesthood, and last year the friction became so great that a movement was commenced in favour of submission to Etchmiadzin.

Briefly, the Sis Catholicos can consecrate Bishops, but cannot appoint them to Sees; the Patriarch can appoint, but cannot consecrate; and his desire to appoint Bishops consecrated at Etchmiadzin has led to the present dispute.

To ascertain the real wishes of his flock the Catholicos of Sis called a meeting of Armenian clergy and laity, which assembled at Sis on the 23rd October, 1880. Owing to the personal unpopularity of the Catholicos the meeting was a small one. Aleppo sent no delegate, and it was also informal, having been called together without the cognizance of the Porte or the Patriarch.

At the meeting the following demands were formulated:—

1. That the Catholicos of Sis, as spiritual Chief, should have power to appoint and dismiss the Bishops of his Catholicate, and that the Patriarch should merely act as an agent, to obtain the necessary Firmans and Berats from the Porte.

2. That the Catholicos of Sis should be acknowledged by the Porte as temporal Chief of the Armenians within his Catholicate, with full powers to transact business with the local authorities, and that, in matters of high importance, requiring reference to Constantinople, the Patriarch should simply act as his Vekil, or Agent.

3. That, in the proposed restoration and embellishment of the ancient convent at Sis, a portion of the expenditure should be met by the Armenian community at large, the Armenians of the Sis Catholicate being too poor to provide the necessary funds.

4. That the Turkish Government should be asked to provide annually funds for the support of a theological and secular College which the Catholics proposed to establish at Sis.

The demands of the Catholics were laid before the National Assembly of the Armenians at Constantinople. It was decided that the first demand could not be granted without violating those clauses of the Constitution which give the Armenian people the right of electing their own Bishops by means of their Councils, and of preferring requests for their dismissal.

The second demand was considered equally irregular, as the Patriarch is looked upon by the Porte as the supreme Chief of the Armenians in Turkey, and the Bishops are treated as his representatives in the provinces. The third and fourth demands were deemed to require mature consideration before any decision could be arrived at.

There seems to be a pretty general opinion that if the Catholicos of Sis had been a popular man the members of the National Assembly would have endeavoured to settle the questions which have arisen by some compromise in a sense favourable to the Sis Catholicate.

As far as I have been able to judge the feeling of nearly all educated Armenians, clergy and laity, south of the Taurus, and indeed from Smyrna to Aleppo, is in favour of retaining the Sis Catholicate in all its ancient rights and privileges, and I understand that there is a considerable party at Constantinople who hold the same view. I may mention that the Armenian church at Smyrna was yesterday consecrated with holy oil from Sis.

The latter phases of the question are unknown to me, but I believe negotiations are still going on at Constantinople between the Patriarch and the Catholicos of Sis. The ultimate decision rests with the National Assembly, which, if it decide in favour of the Sis Catholicate, has power to dismiss the present Catholicos and appoint a man whose personal character will command more universal respect.

The question is one of great importance to the whole Armenian Church, for its solution will decide whether the Armenians residing in Turkey are to acknowledge as their sole spiritual Chief the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin, who is a Russian subject, and

always resides in Russian territory, or whether they will retain an independent Catholicos at Sis, as a spiritual Chief of equal authority residing in Turkish territory.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

May 9, 1881.

Inclosure 3 in No. 99.

Aperçu général sur la Constitution, ou Statuts Organiques des Arméniens de la Turquie.

UN travail sourd avait préparé la nation Arménienne à adopter un régime plus conforme à l'esprit moderne, en se basant sur les traditions de l'Eglise Arménienne qui est éminemment démocratique, sur les privilèges et les immunités qui sont octroyés aux Communautés Chrétiennes, *ab antiquo* par les Souverains Ottomans.

Partant de ce principe les Arméniens de la Turquie se sont donné en 1856 une Constitution, qui, à quelques modifications près, a été sanctionnée par la Sublime Porte en 1863.

Cette Constitution, basée sur le principe du droit et du devoir, est composée de 99 Articles, divisés en 5 titres; outre un chapitre spécial ou Préambule, consacré à sanctionner dans 6 Articles le principe fondamental de la Constitution, qui est la Souveraineté Nationale.

En voici le résumé:—

"L'Administration pour être nationale, il faut qu'elle soit représentative.

"L'Administration représentative est basée sur le principe du droit et du devoir, qui est le principe de la justice. Sa force réside dans la majorité des voix, qui est le principe de l'égalité." (Arts. 5-6 du Préambule.)

TITRE Ier.—ADMINISTRATION CENTRALE.

1. *Du Patriarche de Constantinople.—Election. Démission.*

Le Patriarche de Constantinople, Président de tous les Conseils Nationaux, est le Chef du Pouvoir Exécutif, et dans des cas spéciaux, il est aussi l'intermédiaire de l'exercice des ordres du Gouvernement.

Le candidat au trône Patriarcal, pour pouvoir jouir de la confiance et du respect de toute la nation, doit posséder toutes les qualités qu'exige la dignité de sa fonction; il doit appartenir à la classe des Evêques ayant le droit au Patriarcat *ab antiquo*; il doit également être digne de la confiance absolue du Gouvernement; âgé de 35 ans, et il faut que la sujétion Ottomane lui soit acquise au moins de son père. (Art. 1er.)

En cas d'absence au trône Patriarcal, par la mort ou la démission du titulaire, ou pour tout autre motif, les deux Sections Ecclésiastiques et Civiles du Conseil d'Administration, réunies en séance mixte, désignent un Patriarche Intérimaire, et soumettent à la sanction de la Sublime Porte sa nomination.

Mode d'Election.—Le Patriarche est élu, à vie, par l'Assemblée Nationale, à la majorité absolue des suffrages. Les Sections Civiles et Ecclésiastiques du Conseil d'Administration ont le droit de présenter une liste contenant les noms de cinq candidats; mais l'Assemblée est libre de choisir en dehors de la liste, pourvu que le nom de ce candidat se trouve sur la liste des Evêques, jouissant au point de vue ecclésiastique du droit à l'élévation au trône Patriarcal. (Art. 2.)

Le procès-verbal de l'élection du Patriarche, portant la signature de tous les Députés présents à la séance, est transmis, par l'entremise du Patriarche Intérimaire, à la Sublime Porte, qui confirme la nomination par tradé Impérial, selon les usages antiques. (Art. 3.)

Le Patriarche ainsi nommé se rend au Patriarcat sur l'invitation de l'Assemblée Nationale et prête serment dans l'église cathédrale selon la formule suivante:—

"Devant Dieu et en présence de l'Assemblée Nationale, je jure publiquement fidélité au Gouvernement et à ma nation et de veiller réellement à la stricte exécution de la Constitution Nationale."

Dès ce moment les fonctions du Patriarche Intérimaire cessent. Et le Patriarche, sur l'invitation de la Sublime Porte, se présente directement à Sa Majesté le Sultan, qui l'investit dans ses fonctions, et se rendant à la Sublime Porte, il est proclamé. (Art. 4.)

Le Patriarche peut être poursuivi devant l'Assemblée pour violation de la Constitution. (Art. 5.)

Les Sections Ecclésiastiques et Civiles du Conseil d'Administration ont seules, concurremment avec l'Assemblée Nationale, le droit d'accusation. L'acte d'accusation est soumis à une Commission d'Enquête composée de dix Députés, dont cinq ecclésiastiques et cinq laïques. Sur le rapport de la Commission l'Assemblée décide à la majorité des voix, en bulletin secret, si l'accusation est bien ou mal fondée, et selon le résultat du vote le Patriarche est maintenu ou démis de ses fonctions. (Art. 6.)

Nota.—Un Article du Règlement Intérieur de l'Assemblée Nationale prescrit, qu'en cas d'acquittement ceux qui ont à tort accusé le Patriarche doivent lui demander pardon en pleine séance de l'Assemblée.

Le Patriarche démissionnaire passe au rang des Evêques Diocésains, et le Conseil d'Administration, en séance mixte, décide sur son compte ce qui est de droit.

Fonction et Devoirs du Patriarche.—Le devoir du Patriarche est de se conformer aux principes de la Constitution, et de veiller à la stricte exécution de tous les points prescrits. Il est obligé d'envoyer à l'examen et à la décision des Conseils compétents, toutes les affaires qui se présentent. Les actes émanés du Patriarche, s'ils sont décidés en Conseil, ne seront pas exécutoires s'ils ne sont pas contresignés par le corps qui a décidé l'affaire. En cas d'urgence seulement, il est autorisé de prendre une décision sous sa responsabilité personnelle. Mais dans ce cas il est obligé de soumettre sa décision à l'approbation du Conseil compétent, en la faisant enregistrer dans le procès-verbal de la séance la plus prochaine. (Art. 8.)

Le Patriarche a le droit de recommander aux Conseils la révision de leurs décisions prises en son absence. Mais après la révision il est obligé de les exécuter, s'il ne trouve pas la décision contraire aux prescriptions de la Constitution. (Art. 9.)

Le Patriarche a également le droit de demander aux autorités compétentes la destitution des fonctionnaires ou employés nationaux de tout grade, laïques ou ecclésiastiques, s'ils ne se conforment pas aux principes Constitutionnels.

Il n'a pas le droit de dissoudre ou changer, de son chef, les Conseils Ecclésiastiques ou Civils, ainsi que les Directions et les Commissions nommées par eux. Mais s'il les trouve dans une voie contraire aux prescriptions des principes Constitutionnels, il demande, pour la première fois, des explications du Président du Conseil ou de la Direction; pour la seconde fois il invite le corps délinquant à l'ordre; et s'il ne réussit pas à le faire entrer dans la voie légale, il a recours à l'Assemblée Nationale si l'accusé est l'une des sections du Conseil d'Administration, et à ce dernier si c'est l'une des Directions, Commissions, ou Surveillance, pour demander leur dissolution ou changement, en motivant toujours sa demande. (Arts. 10-11.)

Le Patriarche ayant un émolument fixe de la Caisse Nationale, lui-même pourvoit aux frais du Patriarcat. (Art. 12.)

2. *Chancellerie Patriarcale.*

La Chancellerie Patriarcale se compose de trois Bureaux:—Correspondance, Archives, Etat Civil. (Art. 13.)

La Chancellerie est dirigé par un Directeur nommé par le Conseil Civil et agréé par le Patriarche. Tous les Greffiers sont responsables au Directeur. (Arts. 14-15.)

Tous les actes émanés de la Chancellerie doivent porter la signature du Directeur et le sceau Patriarcal. (Art. 16.)

3. *Du Patriarche de Jérusalem.*

Le Patriarche de Jérusalem est le titulaire à vie du trône de St. Jacques, en même temps le Président de la Congrégation du Couvent de St. Jacques, ainsi que l'Administrateur des Lieux-Saints appartenant à la nation Arménienne à Jérusalem. Il est obligé de se conformer aux prescriptions du Règlement spécial des Couvents de Jérusalem, et veiller à la stricte exécution du Règlement. (Art. 17.)

Le Patriarche de Jérusalem est élu par l'Assemblée Nationale de la même manière que le Patriarche de Constantinople. Seulement il doit être choisi parmi les membres de la Congrégation du Couvent de St. Jacques. La congrégation a le droit de présenter à l'Assemblée une liste contenant au moins les noms de sept candidats.

Il est responsable à l'Assemblée Nationale, et en cas de violation du Règlement, les membres de la Congrégation ou les Conseils Ecclésiastiques et Civils de l'Administration Centrale peuvent demander sa mise en accusation.

En pareil cas il sera procédé de la même manière prescrite pour le jugement du Patriarche de Constantinople. (Arts. 18-23.)

Le Corps Administratif.

Le Patriarche exerce son pouvoir Exécutif par le concours d'un corps administratif, composé de deux sections, dont l'une chargée des affaires purement religieuses et intitulée Conseil National Ecclésiastique, l'autre intitulée Conseil National Civil, chargée de l'administration générale.

Ces deux Conseils ont des compétences spéciales pour se prononcer en dernier ressort, en matières judiciaires. Et dans des cas déterminés ils se réunissent en séance mixte, qui prend alors le titre de Conseil National Mixte.

Voici la teneur des dispositions de la Constitution :—

4. *Conseil National Ecclésiastique.*

Le Conseil Ecclésiastique se compose de quatorze Ecclésiastiques instruits, ayant accompli leur 30 ans et sacrés depuis cinq ans au moins. (Art. 24.)

Ce Conseil a le droit de présenter une liste de candidature à l'Assemblée Nationale pour l'élection des membres du Conseil Ecclésiastique. Mais cette liste doit contenir le triple du nombre des membres voulus. L'élection est faite en scrutin secret, et sur le rapport du Patriarche, les membres du Conseil sont nommés par Irade Impérial. (Art. 25.)

Le dit Conseil est dissout tous les deux ans à la fin du mois d'Avril et renouvelé au commencement du mois de Mai. Les membres ne sont pas rééligibles pour la session suivante, mais ils peuvent être de nouveau élu deux ans après. (Art. 26.)

Si le nombre des démissionnaires atteint le chiffre de trois, ils seront remplacés par l'Assemblée Nationale. (No. 27.)

Toutes les affaires ayant purement le caractère religieux, ainsi que celles ayant trait à la discipline ecclésiastique, sont du ressort de la compétence du Conseil National Ecclésiastique. Il a le devoir de perfectionner le sentiment religieux dans la nation, de même à garder intact la profession de foi et les traditions de l'Eglise Arménienne, ainsi que le droit d'inspection dans les écoles nationales pour l'enseignement du Cathéchisme. Travailler à doter la nation d'un clergé instruit et digne. (Art. 28.)

Si ce Conseil ne peut pas décider une question purement religieuse, il convoque le Conseil Général Ecclésiastique, auquel prennent part tous les Evêques présents à Constantinople, les Prédicateurs et Curés, et au besoin les Prélats Diocésains des provinces voisines. Et si le Conseil Général se déclare incompétent, l'affaire sera soumise au Patriarche Suprême, qui est le Catholicos d'Echmiadzin. (Art. 29.)

Les Articles 30 à 35 traitent de la procédure à suivre pour la nomination des Prédicateurs et Curés des églises de la capitale et de l'ordination des Prêtres et des Archimandrites.

5. *Conseil National Civil.*

Le Conseil Civil se compose de vingt membres laïques versés dans la connaissance des affaires de la nation et des lois du pays. (Art. 36.)

Ces membres sont élus par l'Assemblée Nationale en scrutin secret et à la majorité absolue des voix. Le rapport de l'élection est soumis par le Patriarche à la Sublime Porte qui le confirme par Iradé Impérial. (Art. 37.)

Comme le Conseil Ecclésiastique, les membres de ce Conseil sont renouvelés tous les deux ans, et ils ne sont pas rééligibles pour la session qui suit immédiatement le terme de leur fonction. (Art. 38.)

Toutes les affaires ayant trait à l'administration générale sont du ressort de la compétence du Conseil Civil. Il a le devoir de veiller à la discipline et au progrès de la nation; d'examiner les projets d'utilité nationale qui lui sont soumis par les différentes Administrations placées sous sa direction, et après avoir constaté leurs nécessités, d'en ordonner l'exécution ou d'éliminer les obstacles. (Art. 41.)

Les Articles 39, 40, et 42 traitent de la procédure du Conseil.

En cas d'incompétence le Conseil Civil soumet la décision de l'affaire à l'Assemblée Nationale. (Art. 43.)

6. *Commissions Administratives ou Directions nommées par le Conseil Civil.*

Les différents agents par l'entremise desquels l'Administration Nationale se met en mouvement sont:—1. Commission de l'Instruction Nationale; 2. Commission Financière; 3. Commission Judiciaire ou Tribunal Patriarcal de Première Instance; 4. Commission des Couvents; 5. Direction de la Comptabilité; 6. Surveillance des Testaments; 7. Ephorie de l'Hôpital. (Art. 44.)

(1.) *Commission de l'Instruction Nationale.*

La Commission d'Instruction, qui se compose de sept membres laïques, a pour fonction la direction générale de l'éducation et de l'instruction de la nation. Elle a le devoir de veiller au développement des écoles nationaux, encourager les différentes Sociétés formées pour favoriser l'instruction des enfants des deux sexes, tâcher d'améliorer le sort des instituteurs et d'assurer leur avenir. Préparer des professeurs capables et érudits, ainsi que des livres d'enseignement. Présider aux examens annuels des écoles nationales et délivrer des diplômes aux élèves qui ont complété leurs études. Pour l'enseignement religieux, elle doit recourir au Conseil Ecclésiastique, qui est chargé de choisir les livres et les professeurs, présider aux examens, et délivrer les diplômes. (Art. 45.)

(2.) *Commission Financière.*

La Commission Financière, composée de sept membres laïques, a pour fonction, la direction supérieure de tous les établissements nationaux de la capitale, et de l'administration de leurs biens. Il a le devoir de veiller sur le bon ordre de tous ces établissements; d'enregistrer les copies de tous les titres de possessions des biens nationaux, soit à Constantinople, soit dans les provinces, et de les conserver dans les archives du Patriarcat. Aucun immeuble appartenant à la nation ne pourra être acheté ou vendu sans la connaissance de la Commission Financière et le consentement du Conseil Civil, confirmé du sceau Patriarcal. De même que toute nouvelle construction ou réparation d'immeuble national ne pourra être entreprise sans les formalités précitées.

La Commission Financière est en outre obligée de veiller sur l'administration des Directions de la Comptabilité, des Testaments, et de l'Ephorie de l'Hôpital, lesquelles sont toutes à présenter leurs comptes dans des périodes déterminées, pour être communiqués au Conseil Civil.

Deux mois avant l'expiration de l'année budgétaire, la Commission Financière est obligée de s'informer par la Direction de la Comptabilité des revenus et des dépenses probables de l'année suivante, pour préparer le Budget et présenter au Conseil Civil. (Art. 46.)

(3.) *Commission Judiciaire.*

La Commission Judiciaire, ayant pour Président le Vicaire Patriarcal, est composée de huit Assesseurs, dont quatre ecclésiastiques, et quatre laïques, élus par le Conseil Mixte. Tous les membres doivent être mariés et avoir accomplis leur quarantième année.

Elle a pour fonction de trancher ou faire cesser les contestations intestines, et de se prononcer en première instance sur les procès recommandés au Patriarcat par la Sublime Porte. Elle a le droit de désigner en cas d'incompétence, si c'est le Conseil Ecclésiastique, ou le Conseil Civil, ou bien le Conseil Mixte qui doit en être saisi. L'appel des Jugements de la Commission Judiciaire sera porté par devant l'un de ces Conseils, selon le caractère du procès. (Art. 47.)

(4.) *Commission des Couvents.*

Les couvents étant la propriété spéciale de la nation, c'est à elle qu'incombe le droit de l'examen et de la surveillance générale des revenus et des dépenses de leur intendance.

Chaque couvent sera régi selon son Règlement spécial, préparé par le Conseil National Mixte, après avoir pris l'avis des membres de la congrégation et de la Commission des Couvents. Ces Règlements sont soumis à l'approbation de l'Assemblée Nationale.

Les principes généraux de ces Règlements sont :

1. Chaque couvent sera administré par sa propre congrégation, pourtant le droit de la surveillance générale appartient à l'Administration Centrale, qui l'exerce par le canal de la Commission des Couvents.

2. Le Supérieur de chaque couvent sera élu par la congrégation et nommé avec le consentement du Conseil Mixte de l'Administration Centrale, et confirmé par le Patriarche. Le Supérieur doit être sujet Ottoman, et âgé de 35 ans au moins.

3. Tous les couvents sont obligés de servir au progrès moral de la nation, par

conséquent chaque couvent doit avoir selon ses moyens, un séminaire, une bibliothèque, une imprimerie, et un hôpital, et d'autres institutions analogues d'utilité publique.

La Commission des Couvents est composée de sept membres élus par le Conseil Civil, et a pour mission de veiller sur l'exécution des Règlements de chaque couvent et de contrôler et régulariser leurs Budgets. A cet effet elle choisit les employés nécessaires à l'intendance, lesquels administrent les établissements sous la présidence du Supérieur, et selon leur Règlement spécial, et rendent compte de leur gestion à la Commission Centrale dans des périodes déterminées.

(5.) *Direction de la Comptabilité.*

Cette Direction se compose de sept membres initiés à la science de la tenue des livres; ils sont élus par le Conseil Civil. Elle a pour fonction l'administration de la Caisse Centrale et la tenue des comptes.

La Caisse Centrale a pour revenu (1) l'impôt général national; (2) les revenus de la Chancellerie Patriarcale; et (3) les dons et legs faits au nom de la nation, sans aucune désignation spéciale. Les dépenses sont: les frais ordinaires du Patriarcat et de la Chancellerie, les subsides payés pour les établissements nationaux appartenant à l'autorité centrale, les secours faits aux communes nécessiteuses, ainsi que les autres frais accidentels.

La Direction de la Comptabilité recueille tous ces revenus et en fait la distribution, toujours sous la surveillance de la Commission Financière et avec le consentement du Conseil Civil. Elle est obligée de tenir les comptes de la Caisse Nationale selon les règles de la science et d'en dresser à des époques fixes des bilans pour communiquer à la Commission Financière, qui, après les avoir contrôlé, présente au Conseil Civil. (Art. 49.)

(6.) *Surveillance des Testaments.*

La Surveillance des Testaments se compose de sept membres, dont quatre laïques et trois ecclésiastiques, élus par le Conseil Civil. Elle a pour mission de veiller à l'exécution des testaments selon les vœux des testateurs. Elle est obligée de rendre compte dans des périodes déterminées à la Commission Financière, pour être présentée, après vérification, au Conseil Civil. (Art. 50.)

(7.) *Ephorie de l'Hôpital.*

L'Ephorie de l'hôpital est composé de neuf membres, dont deux doivent être des médecins diplômés, élus par le Conseil Civil. Elle a pour fonction d'administrer l'hôpital au moyen de ses biens particuliers et de la subvention accordée par la Caisse Nationale.

Cet établissement est divisé en quatre compartiments, dont le premier pour les malades pauvres, le second, salle d'asile pour les vieillards, le troisième, hospice des aliénés, et le quatrième, orphelinat.

L'Ephorie est responsable pour les différentes branches de cet établissement aux Commissions Financière et de l'Instruction Nationale; elle doit leur rendre compte de sa gestion périodiquement. (Art. 51.)

7. *Les Conseils Communaux.*

L'Administration Communale est confiée à un Conseil composé de cinq à douze membres, selon l'importance de la Commune.

Le Conseil Communal a pour fonction la gestion de toutes les affaires de la commune, d'administrer l'église et les écoles communaux de deux sexes, secourir les familles nécessiteuses de la commune, examiner et terminer par la réconciliation toutes les contestations entre les nationaux. (Art. 52.)

Chaque commune doit avoir une Caisse administrée par le Conseil Communal. La contribution faité par la population de la commune, les rentes des immeubles appartenant à l'église et aux écoles, les dons des particuliers et provenant des legs, &c., forment les revenus; les frais nécessaires pour l'entretien des églises et des écoles et les secours aux pauvres représentent la partie des dépenses de la Caisse Communale. (Art. 53.)

Chaque Conseil Communal est chargé de dresser les actes de l'Etat Civil de sa commune, en ayant soin d'avoir des registres réguliers. (Art. 53.)

Les Conseils Communaux ont des relations directes avec les différentes branches

du Corps Administratif, et ils doivent leur rendre compte périodiquement selon la juridiction spéciale de chacune de ces branches. (Art. 54.)

Chaque Conseil Communal est élu par la population de sa commune. Sont électeurs tous les Arméniens, âgés de 25 ans, qui ne sont pas privés de leurs droits civiques selon l'Article 67 de la Constitution. (Art. 55.)

Un règlement d'administration publique fait par les Conseils Ecclésiastique et Civil, fixera la procédure des Conseils Communaux. Les membres des Conseils Communaux seront renouvelés tous les quatres ans; les membres sortants sont immédiatement rééligibles.

8. *Pouvoir Législatif.—Assemblée Nationale.—Organisation et Obligation.*

Le pouvoir législatif s'exerce par une Assemblée Nationale siégeant à Constantinople, composée de 140 Députés, dont:—

Un septième, soit 20 Députés, élus par le clergé présent à Constantinople.

Deux septièmes, soit 40 Députés, élus par les provinces.

Quatre septièmes, soit 80 Députés, élus par les différents collèges de la capitale et de ses banlieux.

L'Assemblée se renouvèle par cinquième tous les deux ans.

Le droit électoral a pour base la contribution nationale et la capacité individuelle.

Sont électeurs par droit de contribution:

Tous les Arméniens sujets Ottoman, s'ils sont âgés de 25 ans, et qui ne sont pas privés de leurs droits civiques en vertu de l'Article 67 de la Constitution, et contribuent aux dépenses annuelles de l'Administration Nationale, par le paiement d'un impôt de 75 piastres au moins.

Sont électeurs par droit de capacité individuelle:

Tous les fonctionnaires Arméniens, membres des bureaux de différents Services du Gouvernement Impérial; les médecins diplômés; les auteurs des livres utiles; les maîtres d'écoles, et les personnes qui ont rendu des services utiles à la nation.

Sont privés du droit d'élection, provisoirement ou à perpétuité: (1) les personnes condamnées par les Tribunaux Criminels ou Correctionnels à la perte de leurs droits civils et politiques; (2) ceux qui pour cause de détournement ou fraude dans les affaires ont été jugé indignes aux fonctions publiques par les autorités compétentes de la nation; (3) les personnes qui ont subi une condamnation correctionnelle dont le délai n'est pas encore expiré; (4) les personnes attaquées d'aliénation mentale ou les fous dont la parfaite guérison n'est pas légalement constatée. (Art. 67.)

Sont éligibles tous les Arméniens ayant accompli leur trentième année, qui sont sujets Ottoman et possèdent la connaissance suffisante des lois du pays et des affaires de la nation, et qui ne sont pas privés de leurs droits civiques et politiques selon l'Article 67.

L'Assemblée Nationale représentant les Arméniens de la Turquie, est l'autorité supérieure nationale pour toutes les affaires civiles. En matière religieuse l'autorité suprême appartient au Catolicos d'Echmiadzin.

L'Assemblée Nationale a pour fonction d'élire le Patriarche, le Catolicos, et les principaux fonctionnaires de la nation, les membres des deux Conseils Ecclésiastique et Civil; de surveiller l'administration nationale; de décider toutes les questions que le Patriarche ou les Conseils Ecclésiastique et Civil croient être en dehors de leur compétence; de se prononcer souverainement en cas de conflit entre les corps supérieurs administratifs ou le Patriarche; de juger les accusations portés contre les Patriarches et les membres du Conseil d'Administration; de voter le Budget national, et finalement d'être le gardien de la Constitution.

L'Assemblée a des Sessions ordinaires et des Sessions extraordinaires.

La Session ordinaire a pour but le vote du Budget annuel; le contrôle de l'Administration, l'élection des membres qui doivent remplacer les Conseils Ecclésiastique et Civil sortants. La Session ordinaire dure deux mois tous les deux ans. Dans les Sessions ordinaires les membres du Conseil d'Administration n'ont que voix consultative excepté en matière d'impôt et d'élections, où ils conservent leurs voix délibératives.

La Session extraordinaire est convoquée, en cas de besoin (1) pour l'élection du Catolicos; (2) pour l'élection des Patriarches de Jérusalem ou de Constantinople; (3) en cas de conflit de juridiction entre les deux sections du Conseil d'Administration ou entre l'une de ces sections et le Patriarche; (4) pour la révision de la Constitution; et, finalement, pour autre question dont la compétence appartient à elle.

Pour les Sessions extraordinaires le Patriarcat doit prévenir la Sublime Porte, et prendre son consentement avant la convocation.

Les deux sections du Conseil d'Administration ainsi que la majorité des représentants peuvent demander au Patriarche la convocation d'une Session extraordinaire.

Les représentants de Constantinople sont élus par les Collèges Electoraux, mais ceux des provinces par le Conseil Général de chaque province. Ils ne sont pas tenu d'être domicilié de la commune ou de la province qui les a élu, il suffit qu'ils résident à Constantinople. Au sein de l'Assemblée ils ne représentent pas spécialement le Collège ou la province qui les a nommé, mais ils sont tous considérés comme les représentants de la nation. (Arts. 57 à 70.)

Les Articles 71 à 84 indiquent la manière de voter, on sont des instructions de peu d'intérêt.

Titre II.—Règlement Général pour les Conseils et Commissions.

Chaque Conseil et Commission doit avoir un bureau composé d'un Président, d'un Vice-Président, d'un Secrétaire, et d'un Adjoint, élus par le Conseil ou Commission, et parmi ses membres. Les membres des bureaux sont renouvelés chaque année. Sans la présence de la majorité la séance ne peut être valable. Après la clôture de la discussion la question est mise aux voix et décidée selon l'avis de la majorité. Pour qu'une question soit considérée résolue au sein du Conseil Mixte, il faut que la majorité des membres des deux Conseils soient présents et votent séparément. En cas que leur décision ne serait pas analogue la question sera soumise à l'Assemblée Nationale. En cas de convocation de l'Assemblée Nationale, les Députés doivent être prévenus six jours d'avance de la part du Patriarcat.

Le Patriarche même, en cas de sa présence à l'Assemblée ou dans tout autre Conseil, n'exerce que la présidence honoraire; chaque Conseil procède par son propre bureau, dont les membres sont choisis par le Conseil et ne peuvent pas être pris en dehors de ses membres. (Arts. 85 à 89.)

Titre III.—Impôt ou Contribution Nationale.

Tous les Arméniens qui sont majeurs et qui ont des occupations rapportant des bénéfices, sont obligés de contribuer aux dépenses de la nation.

La contribution est annuelle et elle a pour base de la répartition les moyens de chaque individu. (Art. 90.)

La contribution nationale est de deux sortes. L'une générale, pour le service centrale, et qui est perçue par le Patriarcat; l'autre particulière, destinée aux dépenses de chaque commune, et elle est perçue par les Conseils Communaux. (Art. 91.)

La contribution générale est répartie à Constantinople par le Conseil Civil, après le vote de l'Assemblée Nationale. Chaque Conseil Communal répartit la contribution particulière.

On procédera de la même manière dans les provinces pour les contributions provinciale et communale. (Art. 92.)

La contribution en usage, due par les provinces à la Caisse centrale du Patriarcat, sera répartie par la décision nationale, et exécutée par le consentement ou ordonnance de la Sublime Porte. (Art. 93.)

Titre IV.—Administration Provinciale Nationale.

Le Métropolitain est le Président des Conseils Provinciaux et exerce leur pouvoir exécutif. Il a le devoir de veiller à l'exécution de la Constitution dans la province. (Art. 94.)

Le Métropolitain ne pourra pas fixer sa résidence dans des couvents et s'éloigner ainsi du lieu de ses fonctions. Il est tenu de résider dans le chef-lieu de la province, où se réunit le Conseil Provincial.

Si un Métropolitain est en même temps Supérieur d'un couvent, qui n'est éloigné que d'une journée de distance de la ville, il peut l'administrer en personne en allant visiter de temps en temps au couvent. Mais dans le cas que le couvent serait éloigné de plus d'une journée de distance, il est obligé de nommer un Vicaire dans le couvent. Cependant en cas de besoin il peut visiter toutes les parties de son diocèse. (Art. 95.)

Dans les provinces, comme à Constantinople, chaque commune doit avoir un Conseil communal, une Caisse communale, et une Chancellerie communale.

De même que dans toutes les résidences Métropolitaines il sera institué des Conseils Ecclésiastique et Civil; une Caisse provinciale sous la direction du Conseil Civil; de même qu'une Chancellerie provinciale dans chaque résidence Métropolitaine doit réunir les registres des recensements communaux, pour trouver le recensement général provincial. (Art. 96.)

L'élection du Métropolitain se fait selon le mode d'élection du Patriarche, par le Conseil Général Provincial; le procès-verbal d'élection est adressé au Patriarche par l'entremise du Conseil Mixte de la province. Le Patriarche, avec l'approbation du Conseil Mixte de l'Administration Centrale, nomme le Métropolitain, et à la suite de sa communication la Sublime Porte ratifie cette nomination par Ordonnance spéciale. (Art. 97.)

Les Conseils provinciaux seront organisés sur le modèle de l'Administration Centrale, ayant pour fonction et compétence les mêmes limites qui sont prescrites.

Le nombre des membres des Conseils provinciaux sera fixé une fois, selon le chiffre de la population de chaque province.

Jusqu'à ce que la contribution nationale soit établie régulièrement dans les provinces, les électeurs pour les Conseils Généraux seront seulement ceux qui sont imposé par le Gouvernement, dans les premier, second et troisième degrés. Le mode de l'organisation de ces Conseils sera arrêté par l'Administration Centrale, après avoir consulté les Métropolitains. (Art. 98.)

Titre V.—Révision de la Constitution.

Les principes fondamentaux de la Constitution sont immuables; mais quand le temps et l'expérience démontre la nécessité de la révision de certaines dispositions, l'Assemblée Nationale, cinq années après la promulgation de la Constitution, formera une Commission de Révision composée de trois membres pris du Conseil Ecclésiastique, de trois du Conseil Civil, et de deux membres du chacune des quatre Commissions, Administrations, et de six autres membres faisant partie ou non à l'Assemblée, en tout vingt personnes. Les dispositions révisées par cette Commission, après avoir reçu l'approbation de l'Assemblée, seront soumises à la Sublime Porte et seront exécutoires par Ordonnance Impériale. (Art. 99.)

Modifications introduites dans le Système Administratif et Judiciaire.

Dès les premières années de la mise en exécution de la Constitution, on avait remarqué que le Corps Administratif placé auprès du Patriarche avait tout à fait le caractère d'une Commission de Permanence, laquelle, loin d'être une auxiliaire du Pouvoir Exécutif confiée au Patriarche, entravait souvent la marche des affaires. Il était impossible de rencontrer dans un corps, élu par le scrutin secret, l'entente nécessaire qui dérive presque toujours de la conformité des vues et des idées, et qui est indispensable dans tout Gouvernement.

Des hommes appartenant à des opinions différentes étant appelés à diriger les affaires de la nation, l'esprit de partie soulevait à chaque instant des discussions stériles, de sorte que des questions d'une importance secondaires se dégénéraient en conflits, qui se terminaient presque toujours par la démission des Patriarches.

Cet état des choses ayant attiré l'attention de la nation ainsi que du Gouvernement, à différentes reprises des Commissions de Révision ont été nommées et des essais infructueux ont eu lieu pour obvier à cet inconvénient, tel que la réduction de vingt à quatorze le nombre des membres du Conseil Administratif Civil; et pour leur nomination la présentation d'une liste de candidature, par les Présidents des bureaux de l'Assemblée; le droit d'interpellation des représentants sur toutes les questions; convocation régulière des séances de l'Assemblée toutes les quinzaines, et le vote du Budget annuel. Toutes ces modifications, introduites en vertu du Règlement Intérieur promulgué en 1874, et composé de 110 Articles, ne pourraient atteindre le but qu'on se proposait, tant qu'on ne pouvait pas se mettre d'accord sur le mode d'élection du Conseil Dirigeant, après avoir constaté la nécessité de l'homogénéité des opinions de ses membres.

D'ailleurs, la concentration entre les mains de différents corps, l'initiative nécessaire aux agents du Pouvoir Exécutif, non seulement paralyserait l'impulsion nécessaire pour la régularité de la marche des affaires, mais par ce système les agents

insouciants pouvaient trouver le moyen d'échapper au contrôle, et la responsabilité constitutionnelle devenait entièrement nulle.

Après plusieurs années d'hésitations, l'expérience a démontré à la nation qu'un changement radical était indispensable dans le système d'Election des agents du Pouvoir Exécutif.

A cet effet l'Assemblée Nationale vient à l'unanimité des voix d'adopter le projet d'organisation administrative et judiciaire présenté par une Commission composée des Présidents de ses bureaux, qui réduit d'abord le nombre des agents du Pouvoir Exécutif et les placent auprès du Patriarche comme des Conseillers réels, choisit par lui mais responsables à l'Assemblée, paraît avoir réussi à résoudre le problème.

Voici les principales dispositions de cette modification:

Le Corps Administratif sera composé de six Conseillers, lesquels seront chargés de diriger les différentes branches de l'Administration, qui se compose:—

1. Des Affaires Ecclésiastiques.
2. Des Affaires de Relations.
3. Des Affaires Intérieures.
4. Des Affaires Judiciaires.
5. Des Affaires de l'Instruction Nationale.
6. Des Affaires Financières. (Art. 8.)

Les six membres du Conseil Administratif doivent être des personnes possédant la confiance de l'Assemblée Nationale, dont le choix est confié au Patriarche, qui les présente à l'Assemblée ainsi qu'à la Sublime Porte. (Art. 9.)

Chaque Conseiller dirige les affaires de sa compétence sous sa responsabilité personnelle, selon le Règlement Intérieur, et au besoin il prend l'avis du Patriarche et de ses collègues. Mais s'il se présente une question d'une grande importance il laisse la solution et la responsabilité au Conseil Administratif. (Art. 12.)

Le Conseil Administratif se réunit au moins deux fois par mois, et à l'heure fixée délibère avec les membres présents sur toutes les questions à l'ordre du jour, communiqué d'avance à tous les Conseillers. (Art. 13.)

Les membres du Conseil Administratif sont responsables à l'Assemblée, personnellement pour leurs actes et collectivement pour les affaires générales.

Le Conseil Administratif, sur le rapport du Conseiller compétent, nommera les membres des différentes Commissions qui seront nécessaires d'instituer, dont les titulaires entreront en fonction sur l'invitation du Patriarche. (Art. 15.)

L'un des points les plus essentiels dont la révision vient d'être adoptée par l'Assemblée, est la séparation des pouvoirs judiciaires et administratifs. Dans le régime de la Constitution ces deux pouvoirs étaient réunis entre les mains du même corps composé de deux Conseils Supérieurs Ecclésiastiques et Civils. Ces deux Conseils, élus par l'Assemblée, ne s'occuperont plus d'administration, qui est confiée au Corps Administratif composé des six Conseillers; mais ils représenteront le Tribunal Supérieur où doivent être porté l'appel des Jugements rendus en premier ressort par les différentes Chambres du Tribunal Patriarcal.

La justice nationale sera distribuée par trois degrés. La première par les Juges de Paix; la seconde par les Tribunaux de Première Instance; et la troisième par le Tribunal Supérieur.

Dans chaque commune un ecclésiastique remplira les fonctions de Juge de Paix, assisté de deux laïques désignés par le Conseil Communal. (Art. 16.)

Tout procès entre les particuliers doit être tranché par voie de réconciliation, et en cas d'impossibilité la Justice de Paix enverra les parties devant le Tribunal Central. (Art. 29.)

Le Tribunal Central est composé de trois Chambres; dont la Première Chambre Matrimoniale, composée de trois ecclésiastiques et deux laïques, tous mariés et ayant accompli leur quarantième année. Elle a pour compétence de décider tous les procès entre les époux.

La seconde est la Chambre des Affaires Individuelles, tels que les procès nés des legs et testaments, ainsi que ceux qui concernent les successions, &c. Elle se compose de cinq Juges ayant atteint l'âge de 30 ans.

La troisième est la Chambre Administrative composée également de cinq Juges âgés de 30 ans, ayant pour compétence de se prononcer sur tous les procès administratifs de la nation, et de juger les accusations portées contre les fonctionnaires nationaux, excepté les membres du Tribunal Supérieur et les Conseillers Administratifs, qui ne peuvent être jugé que par l'Assemblée. (Arts. 33 à 35.)

Le Tribunal Supérieur se compose de deux Conseils, dont l'un appelé Cour Ecclésiastique et l'autre Cour Civile. Ces deux Cours réunis forment la Cour Mixte.

Ce sont les anciens Conseils Ecclésiastique et Civil qui prennent ce titre dans la nouvelle organisation; le nombre de leurs membres est réduit seulement à cinq pour chacun. Quant à la compétence, ils conservent en matière judiciaire tous les droits prévus par la Constitution. La section civile abandonne la partie administrative entièrement aux Conseillers, tandis que dans la section Ecclésiastique ils ont certains prérogatifs qui leur appartiennent de droit. (Art. 36 à 40.)

Tels sont les modifications introduites dans la Constitution, mais avant de leur donner la sanction nécessaire prévue par l'Article 99, l'Assemblée a décidé à l'unanimité des voix de la mettre en exécution à titre d'essaie, pour pouvoir juger par la pratique même les avantages ainsi que les inconvénients du système, et selon le résultat de se prononcer définitivement.

No. 100.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 23.*)

(No. 384. Confidential.)

Constantinople, May 15, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch addressed to me by Colonel Wilson, forwarding a Confidential Report drawn up by Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow on the Vilayet of Khudavendikyar (Brussa).

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 100.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 9. Confidential.)

Smyrna, May 9, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Excellency's information, a Confidential Report on the Vilayet of Khudavendikyar (Brussa), which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Pieton Warlow, Madras Staff Corps.

As only one copy of the Report has been forwarded to me, I should be glad to receive a printed copy if it be set up in type.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 100.

Report on the Province of Khudavendikyar.

(Confidential.)

Reforms.—The subject of reforms has been so thoroughly discussed that it would be useless for me to go into it at any length; over-centralization is the curse of the country, and its remedy must be found in training the people to local self-government by means of the Councils, whose members should be really and truly elected, instead of being, as under the present complicated system of selection, virtually official nominees.

As regards the administration of justice, everything is out of gear; police, Courts, and procedure alike stand in urgent need of reform, but if all cannot be taken in hand at once, great care will be needed or changes, excellent in themselves, may yet prove of very doubtful advantage. At present, to use a Turkish proverb, "One evil kills another;" if a bad law of evidence renders the conviction of the most obviously guilty person almost impossible, a bad procedure and lazy Judges make his release almost equally difficult. A noted murderer or brigand, once arrested, may never be formally convicted, but he runs a very fair chance of ending his days in gaol "under trial." Regular gaol deliveries would change all this, but with the law as it now stands, only by letting loose ruffians who would become more daring after each escape from justice.

The law of evidence which makes the direct evidence of two witnesses a *sine qua non* should, in my opinion, be altered; for, while it affords little protection to a really innocent man, it shields the guilty. Circumstantial evidence is in very many cases a far safer guide than direct, especially in countries where lying is so common, and perjury of every day occurrence.

That the alteration of this law would be opposed to the precepts of the Koran is an objection that applies equally to the reception of Christian evidence and to other changes which will have to be made if the mischievous interference of religious authorities in matters civil and criminal is ever to be put a stop to.

The absurd rules which prevent the police from pursuing criminals across the frontiers of vilayets, and require that action should be taken only after communication with the local authorities, should certainly be cancelled; they not only hamper the police when they are really working earnestly, but afford an excellent excuse for failure, of which they are only too ready to avail themselves, whenever they have good reasons of their own for not wishing to effect a capture.

Feeling of People.—Owing to my having made only one journey into the interior of the province, I have had but few opportunities of making myself acquainted with the feelings of the people, but have reason to believe that they are thoroughly disgusted with the manner in which they are misgoverned at present, and have begun to despair of any improvement in their condition. Still, their naturally patient, apathetic character, and the habit of obedience to their rulers, will probably prevent them from ever attempting to set matters to rights by a revolution.

Should any foreign Power undertake the government of the country, I doubt whether they would encounter any serious opposition from the people; it is possible that their fanaticism might be worked upon by the priests, but this feeling is on the wane. The kind and liberal treatment which the Turkish prisoners received from the Russians, contrasted with their suffering and misery while serving under the Sultan, has very much altered their preconceived notions of "Giaours" in general, and the stories which the few Redifs who have returned tell of their adventures are making a considerable impression on the mass of the peasantry.

Feeling of Circassian and Lazi Refugees.—Amongst the Circassian and Lazi refugees the Turkish Government is regarded with dislike and contempt, owing to the treatment which they have received at its hands. Prompted by strong religious feelings, and tempted by the liberal promises made to them, these unfortunate people have left their homes and given up everything, and now find that the land of promise is a delusion, and that starvation stares them in the face.

I may mention that not one of all the refugees from Batoum with whom I have spoken has ever said a word against their new rulers; on the contrary, all agree in declaring that they have been treated with kindness and consideration by the Russian authorities. Some few of them state that fear of the conscription, or persecution at some future time, induced them to emigrate, but the great majority put their exodus down to purely religious motives; they could not live under a Christian Government when the land of true believers was open to them.

Calling out of Redifs.—During the last two months regiments of Redifs from the interior have been constantly passing through Brussa, and I have been much struck by the entire absence of anything approaching to enthusiasm either amongst them or the people who witnessed their departure. The soldiers appeared depressed, and the people hardly took the trouble of looking at them. Old residents here tell me that the scene was very different when these same regiments started for the Servian war, and appear to be much struck with the change.

So far as I can ascertain, nearly 20,000 men have been dispatched from this province. Some of the battalions are very weak, not numbering more than 400 or 450 men, and I hear rumours of many desertions; how far they are true I cannot at present undertake to say.

Conscription.—Recruiting for the Nizam (regular army) was going on in the autumn of 1880, when I was travelling in the Kara-hissar and Kutaya Sandjaks. The number of men called for was one in six of the total available, but so many were exempted for various reasons that, practically, quite one in three of those who came up before the Conscription Committee drew a "bad number," and had to join the army. In spite of the great poverty of the people, an unusually large number paid the very heavy sum (£T.50) which is required to obtain exemption.

A Turkish officer remarked to me that if this style of thing went on they would soon be obliged to enlist Christians.

In this year a call has already been made for recruits, and I hear that refugees, who have hitherto been exempt, are to be required to serve.

(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Vice-Consul in Khudavendkyar.*

Brussa, April 20, 1881.

(Very Confidential.)

No Report on this province would be complete which failed to give a prominent place to its present Governor, Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, ex-Grand Vizier and President of the short-lived Parliament, a man of no ordinary character and abilities, a *savant*, a scholar, an excellent linguist, a polished gentleman, upright, energetic, and devoted to his work. He takes the greatest interest in this province, with which he has been connected from his youth, doing his utmost to improve its condition, and to protect it from the harpies at Constantinople, whose one object is to drain it of its money. Limited as are his powers, he has done much good, and would have done more had he been free from defects, which are, unfortunately, as marked as his virtues and talents. The versatility which enables him to turn his attention to so many subjects prevents him from steadily pursuing one, and he is apt to weary of and leave unfinished work which he had begun with ardour. A far more serious fault is his excessive self-confidence, which tempts him to disregard *in toto* the opinions of any person on any subject should they happen to differ from his own. The fact of his real superiority to the vast majority of those with whom he has been brought in contact has increased the natural imperiousness of his character. With the higher officials serving under him he cannot but be unpopular from the harshness with which he treats them should they fail to come up to his standard of efficiency. His Mutessarifs (Lieutenant-Governors), for instance, are written at, reprimanded, and even threatened with dismissal in the weekly official newspaper which is published at Brussa; while so severe on those whom he believes to have been negligent in their duties, he is often blind to the faults of men of whom he has once formed a favourable opinion, and they may sin openly without much fear of punishment.

Notwithstanding these failings, his Highness Ahmed Vefyk is very far superior to the ordinary run of Turkish Governors, and his removal would be a serious loss to the province. As regards reforms, he holds the opinions of an enlightened but patriotic Osmanli of the old school, thoroughly well aware of and deeply affected by the miserable condition of his country. He hopes and believes that all the evils from which it suffers may be removed without the intervention or assistance of foreigners by reviving and infusing new life into the old institutions of the Empire; such, at least, I gather to be his views from the few observations which he has from time to time let drop, and from what I know of his character and disposition. In politics he is strongly opposed to the present Prime Minister, with whom he is on very bad terms; in the event of his being again offered the Premiership, I have good reason to believe that he would accept it only on his own terms—responsible Ministers and a Parliament.

On my first arrival here his Highness Ahmed Vefyk received me politely, but with marked coolness. Since then he has become much more friendly, and during the last few months we have become very intimate.

(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Vice-Consul of Khudavendkyar.*

Brussa, April 28, 1881.

No. 101.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 23.)

(No. 385.) *Constantinople, May* 15, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch addressed to me by Colonel Wilson relative to the appointment of Bahri Bey of Kotchkiri (Zara) to the office of Kaimakam of Hadjin, and the promise of Abédine Pasha to remove him from that post.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 7.)
Smyrna, May 9, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I recently observed in "La Turquie" an official notification of the appointment of Bahri Bey, late Kaïmakam of Kotchkiri (Zara), to be Kaïmakam of Hadjin, in the Adana Vilayet.

I at once communicated with Lieutenant Bennet, R.E., and requested him to point out to Ahédine Pasha the evil results which would probably follow from the appointment of a man of Bahri Bey's known character to a town of which the population is almost wholly Armenian.

Since my return to Smyrna I have received a telegram from Lieutenant Bennet stating that Bahri Bey was "to be replaced at once by Mustapha Effendi, from Kars."

Bahri Bey was dismissed from Kotchkiri for oppressing and ill-treating the people of that cazá, and he had previously been removed from Azizieh for similar misconduct. His case was brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Embassy in my despatch No. 32, Secret, of the 21st February, 1880, and in Captain Stewart's despatches Nos. 10 and 11 of April 1880.

As Bahri Bey has powerful friends at Stamboul, I have requested Lieutenant Bennet to telegraph direct to your Excellency in the event of his being reinstated. The retention of Bahri Bey at Hadjin would certainly lead to disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 102.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 386.)
Constantinople, May 15, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship an anonymous letter which I received on the 13th instant describing the deplorable state of the Armenian populations, owing to the extortions of the Government authorities and the ill-treatment experienced at the hands of the Kurds and Circassians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Letter addressed to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

Bittis, January 28, 1881.

Your Excellency,

AS the years succeed one another the world advances continually in the path of civilization; but there is a nation inhabiting the soil of Armenia which, by reason, perhaps, of her cruel fate, has for centuries remained stationary. Only a short time ago other nations were under the same yoke, but now they are free, whilst we remain in servitude; they are possessors, in a real sense, of what belongs to them, whilst we are robbed and oppressed. In one word, they are living as a free people, under a self-government, and in enjoyment of many advantages, whilst we are daily wounded by the poniard of savage hordes. We come, therefore, before the just Tribunal of your Excellency to intercede for our martyred nation, which is oppressed by the Government authorities even more than by the Kurds and Circassians. As though the people had not suffered sufficiently from the extortions of the nomad Kurds and from the Turco-Russian war, the Government seems to be lending its assistance to the famine with a view to put an end to our existence. They wish now to exact from us the arrears of taxes which ought to have been levied upon a population which migrated from our country thirty or forty years ago. Owing to the extortions of the Government authorities and the ill-treatment to which we are subjected by the Kurds, our people are compelled to exist on dry bread, which is their only nourishment. If this cruelty continues, thousands of the inhabitants will perish, and the country will be transformed into an uninhabited desert. The Ottoman law ordains that the Governor of each district shall make a circuit annually for the purpose of introducing

necessary reforms. Accordingly, our Governor fulfils his duty at the time appointed, and pays a yearly visit to the villages within his province; but latterly, instead of remedying the existing evils and striving to lighten the sufferings which he witnessed, he has thought fit to recompense several Chiefs of Kurdish tribes who nourish themselves with the blood of innocent Armenians. He has intrusted them with new posts, and has secretly instructed them to continue their acts of violence, instead of visiting them with a severe punishment, as they had themselves expected. The Kurds have been thus encouraged to tyrannize and assassinate on a larger scale than before, and only a short time ago a certain Hadji Nejm-ed-Din, member of the Court of First Instance, while on a circuit in the villages of Belangha and Menazgherd, cruelly exhorted the Kurds to pillage and rob the property of Armenians and to harass them in every possible manner. There can be no doubt but that he had received instructions from the authorities. But it is not only indirectly that the Government persecutes the Christian population, with the view, apparently, of depopulating the country. When Armenians wish to bring a complaint against their oppressors, and it is necessary to produce witnesses, no Turk will consent to give witness in their favour; and if they produce Armenian witnesses, they are not accepted. Thus the case is inevitably decided in favour of the oppressor—Turk or Kurd. There is no justice to be obtained from the Turkish Tribunal for Armenians. We are robbed and oppressed, sometimes slain by the sword of the Kurd, at other times burned to death by fire! No one has any pity for the Armenians, and when brigands and criminals escape from prison, they ravage and devastate Armenian property. If nothing occurs to put an end to the detestable Administration which exists, the tragedy which was enacted in Bulgaria will be repeated in Armenia, and that before many days have passed, as the authorities are even now inciting and encouraging the Kurds to make a beginning. Such is the condition of our country, pitiable in the extreme. I address myself, therefore, to your Excellency, in the name of my suffering countrymen, imploring you to hasten the execution of reforms and to obtain for us personal security. If no remedy is found for the present state of affairs, if the abominable conduct of the Government continues, your Excellency may be sure that before long the name "Armenian" will never be heard again in this country.

(Signed) J. M.

P.S.—I have not given my name, by reason of the vigilance exerted by the authorities in the matter of correspondence written by Armenians.

No. 103.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 390.)
Constantinople, May 15, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch addressed to me by Mr. Consul Biliotti respecting the recent disturbance caused by Laz immigrants in the Nahié of Perchembé, in the district of Ordoo, and the measures taken by the Government for the capture of the culprits.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 24.)
Trebizond, May 4, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE just heard of a rather serious disturbance caused last week by Laz immigrants in the Nahié of Perchembé, in the district of Ordoo.

A band of from twenty to thirty of them repaired to a village of that nahié where a Turkish wedding was taking place, seized the arms of the guests, and exacted 2 medjidiés per head.

For two days the whole population of the village was kept prisoner to prevent their giving information of the intention of the Lazes to plunder the bazaar of Perchembé.

One of the natives managed to escape, but finding that all the authorities and the

leading men were at Ordoo to oppose the handing over to the Lazes of landed property belonging to the natives, he proceeded there, but his report being taken as a manœuvre to discredit the immigrants, no measures were adopted to avert the impending danger.

However, the few inhabitants who remained at Perchembé armed themselves, and were keeping watch, when in the night of Friday last a volley of musketry was fired on the café in which they were congregated. On their answering the fire, the Lazes withdrew for a time to attend to their wounded. The inhabitants, a few of whom had also been wounded, seeing themselves in inferior number, made good their escape and hid themselves.

The aggressors compelled the owner of the café to guide them to manufacture and cloth shops and to stables.

They had loaded two horses, and were about to attack the houses of the Beys, when the Mudir of Perchembé, to whom further notice had been sent to Ordoo, which is only 6 miles distant, arrived, accompanied by three zaptiehs.

Two of the latter who were in advance were fired at by the Lazes, and one of them, himself a Laz, being wounded, called to his countrymen to decamp, which they did, abandoning part of the stolen goods. The value of those carried off amounts to about 100*l.*

It was lucky that darkness prevented the Lazes from discovering the weakness of the party which had come to the rescue.

Of the five Lazes who were wounded in the affray, one died, and another is not expected to survive. A native was shot dead and three wounded.

All the inhabitants of the village of Biadi (at Perchembé), which consists of sixty-one Mussulman and twenty-five Christian families, have addressed by last post a petition to the Governor-General praying that the Emigration Commission should not be permitted to carry out his intention to hand over to the Lazes their landed property which is situated on Cape Yasson.

As the Governor-General has had occasion to inspect himself the spot, he considers the demand of the inhabitants quite grounded, and will give orders in conformity.

The individuals who formed the fore-mentioned band are known; most of them belong to the immigrant families who settled at Fatza. But the police being inadequate to capture them, Sirri Pasha has ordered a Murad Bey, a Chief of Lazes, who is at Samsoun, to apprehend his countrymen, and it is hoped that he will succeed in his task.

However, should this measure fail, there are no other means at the disposal of the Governor-General to attain this end.

He intends, besides punishing the culprits, to have removed to distant districts in the inland all the families of those who took part in the outrage at Perchembé, as an example to others.

But I think that they ought at the same time to be deprived of their arms, more especially of the Henry-Martini rifles with which they are provided, a proof of which exists in the bullets and empty cartridges which were picked up on the scene of action at Perchembé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 104.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 23.)

(No. 391.) *Constantinople, May* 15, 1881.

My Lord,

THE Armenian Patriarch has brought to my notice two cases of what he considered to be the severity of the Ottoman authorities towards Armenians, which are, perhaps, of interest, as showing the present feeling of the Ottoman Government with regard to them, and the suspicion with which all their proceedings are watched. I am assured that this suspicion has increased much during the last few months, especially since Kiamil Pasha became Minister for Public Instruction. Your Lordship is well aware of the antecedents of his Excellency in connexion with the Zeitoun affairs of 1878. It is supposed that he has not forgotten that it was owing to his conduct to the Armenians at that time that he was removed from the post of Vali of Aleppo.

The first of these cases is that of an Armenian printer named Eghia Dondessian,

who was arrested some weeks since for having published some Armenian patriotic songs, which had been printed and sold often before without any notice of them being taken by the Ottoman authorities. The Patriarch did his best to obtain Dondessian's release, but in vain. He was confined in the Grand Zaptieh prison in Constantinople, and died there a short time since of typhoid fever and neglect.

During his illness his friends sent an Armenian doctor to visit him, and some food and medicine. The prison authorities would not allow him to see the doctor, as they stated that they were satisfied with their own medical adviser, nor would they allow him to receive the food or medicine. His death seems to have caused some excitement among the Armenians, 3,000 of whom, the Patriarch said, followed his funeral. The matter has been taken up by some rich Armenians, who are assisting his widow and children, and an action is to be brought by the family against the authorities for neglect.

The other case is that of Hosouf Kafaflan, also an Armenian printer, who was arrested a short time since for putting the words "Constitution Arménienne" on the title-page of a French translation of the Armenian Règlement.

This translation had been made by order of the Patriarch for the use of Armenians living abroad who are ignorant of the Armenian language.

On hearing of what had occurred, the Armenian Patriarch sent to the Sublime Porte to explain that it was an error on the part of the translator, and to request the Porte to authorize a French translation of the "Règlement." The Porte has not as yet given any answer to the Patriarch, nor has the printer been set at liberty.

I can only repeat these statements as they were made by the Patriarch, the facts not being otherwise verified.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 105.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 23.)

(No. 393.) *Constantinople, May* 15, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting Vice-Consul at Diarbekir on the subject of the ill-treatment of Christians near Cheylik, on the Tigris.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 105.

Mr. Barnham to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 8.) *Diarbekir, April* 9, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the favour of your Excellency's perusal, copy of a despatch addressed to Major Trotter, C.B., upon the ill-treatment of certain Christians at Cheylik, on the Tigris.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 105.

Mr. Barnham to Major Trotter.

(No. 8.) *Diarbekir, April* 11, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE again received complaints from Cheylik, on the Tigris. A Captain of the regular army had been detached with some of his company to this region for the purpose of collecting back taxes. The chief collector of the revenue for the district of Midiat had expressly enjoined upon Ismail Effendi, one of the subordinate collectors, not to collect anything at Aonas or Kepkoun. Aonas is a village lying on the direct road from Midiat to Cheylik. The detachment left Midiat on the 2nd ultimo and arrived at Aonas at noon. A halt was made, and the Captain and soldiers put up at

the house of Osman Jemur, one of the Kurdish Beys exiled to Aleppo by Abédine Pasha. The Protestant community received word from the collector Ismail Effendi that 2,000 piastres back taxes must be collected by sunset of that day. Upon receiving this notice, the head of the congregation wrote to Midiat stating the case. As a result of this, an answer was received by Ismail Effendi from Kadi Effendi, the chief collector, ordering him to desist. The collector refused to honour the note, and forcible entry was made into the church while the congregation was at prayers, and the preacher and some members of the congregation beaten by the soldiers. The preacher fled to Midiat, and represented his case to the Kaimakam, who sent him back with some mounted zaptiehs with orders that the proceedings should be stopped. Many of the Christians of different sects were shamefully handled and several women cruelly beaten.

It appears that taxes were really not what was wanted, but a sum of money for a bribe to the Captain. It was probably an act of tyranny instigated by the family of Osman Jemur in revenge for the deportation of Osman Jemur to Aleppo.

With regard to those Kurdish Beys who have arrived at Constantinople for trial, I doubt if any of them will receive their due. One or two of the Constantinople papers have contained articles in their favour, and many of them are rich, and can easily buy an acquittal at Stamboul.

Mustapha Agha of Kerboran, whose misdeeds I represented in the despatch above quoted, is once more in prison at Mardin. The people of Midiat generally speak in high terms of the Mutessarif's conduct while there.

Abédine Pasha's scheme for the reformation of the communes has fallen through in this vilayet. Whether it has been officially countermanded or not I do not know. The people of Heine last autumn rose against their Mudir, Khalil [?] Effendi, and drove him out of the town. A certain Ahmed Bey was appointed in his place. The former Mudir remained in Diarbekir until the beginning of last month, when the Vali reinstated him. The heads of the communities petitioned the Vali through the leading Armenian here, Nimussian Effendi, for the retention of the existing Mudir, who had done excellent service. The Vali, with his usual perversity, refused.

As I know the bad character of the Mudir of Heine, I think it very unlikely that the people will endure his presence much longer.

There is a decrease in the number of robberies reported this month as compared with the winter months, and no special case has occurred upon which I can report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

No. 106.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Mr. Goschen.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 23.)

(No. 99.)
Angora, May 7, 1881.

Sir,

I BEG to inform your Excellency that this province is again threatened with a visitation of the locust plague.

Last year they arrived in autumn after the grain was ripened and partly reaped, and in consequence did comparatively little damage. These passing swarms, however, have left vast quantities of their cocoon-like eggs, and under the influence of summer warmth they are emerging from the surface of the soil in myriads of little black wingless insects, that meanwhile do no damage, but whose powers of future mischief are very potent. Although the winter was a very mild and open one, and notwithstanding repeated and categoric instructions from the Porte, the Local Government here was so occupied with preparing and sending off soldiers, that it has unfortunately up till now entirely neglected all precautionary measures. Now, however, realizing the imminence and magnitude of the danger, they are doing what they can to make up for past neglect. By Decree of the Governor-General, all markets and shops have been closed for three days, and the whole population, male and female, from 7 to 70 years of age, is ordered to betake themselves to the fields and hill-sides to collect the locusts, every individual being enjoined to hand over 5 okes, or about 14 pounds' weight, as a result of each day's work.

I do not perceive, however, that the result at all coincides with the Governor-General's wish and intention; the officers and officials appointed to direct the people and assign them their posts are lacking in zeal and knowledge, and crowds of people, without any one to direct them, lounge about all day, simply enjoying themselves in the open air, and no visible impression is made on the swarms of locusts under foot. Some of the other

consequences are, that business and commerce of every kind are entirely suspended, and the necessaries of life are procured with difficulty; the administration of justice and collection of revenue are of course entirely suspended. The only persons who profit are the speculators in grain, who see their opportunity, and the bushel of wheat, which ten days ago was sold for 28 piastres, or 4*s.* 3*d.*, is to day 42 piastres, or 6*s.* 0*d.* Should these locusts attack the growing crops, the province is certainly threatened with immediate and terrible famine, because the demand for grain since last harvest from the neighbouring provinces was so continuous and profitable that both Government and farmers have disposed of all they could spare, and no surplus or reserve exists, either in public or private granaries. For months past I have taken every opportunity, official, semi-official, and officious, of pointing out to the authorities the danger with which the province was threatened, and proving to them that the expenditure of £T. 10,000 of current revenue, in collecting eggs in their cocoon or winter stage, would have entirely minimized the danger, but till now these representations have been treated with ridicule or contempt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 107.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 309.)
Constantinople, May 19, 1881.

My Lord,

With reference to my despatch No. 280 of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Jago, reporting the peaceful termination of the recent disturbances in the Hauran.

With reference to the concluding paragraph of Mr. Jago's despatch, I have approved his having declined to interfere in the differences between the Druzes and the Ottoman authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 107.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 9.)
Damascus, April 30, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to refer to my despatch No. 7 of the 27th March respecting the recent disturbance in the Hauran, and to report to your Excellency that the matter has been peacefully arranged.

On the first arrival of the Mushir and Commission in the Hauran, the Druze Chiefs seem to have adopted a very independent tone towards the authorities, demanding a joint Commission, foreign guarantees, &c.; declaring, besides, their inability to arrest and deliver up for trial those of their people implicated in the attack upon Kerak, through ignorance of their whereabouts. Although they seem to have practically defied the authorities, and by massing their men at Sweidah, the capital of the mountain, two hours distant from the plain, sufficiently indicated that they would regard the advance into their territory of the troops as a signal of aggressive intentions.

The authorities, on the other hand, having repeatedly proclaimed throughout the land that their intentions were simply to punish the authors of the attack upon Kerak, and were in no way directed against the Druzes as a nation, were loth to advance beyond the base of the mountain, and thus bring on certain collision. Thus matters came to a dead-lock, necessitating reference to Constantinople, where prudent counsels seem to have prevailed. In the end, therefore, the Druzes restored a portion of the booty taken, and undertook to pay the value of the rest; the Commission appointed to try the offenders found that the Hauranese were unable to designate the authors of the attack, and that judicially speaking there was nothing left for it to do; but in order to meet the justice of the case, it permitted overtures to be made by the Druzes to the Hauranese for private arrangement.

The latter, although much dissatisfied with the leniency shown to their

adversaries, were fain to accept the terms offered, which were, as usual in the Hauran, on the basis of the payment of 10,000 piastres per life to the families of the victims, making altogether about 12,000*l.* This arrangement having been, so to say, homologated by the Commission, an amnesty was proclaimed, the blockade of the mountain raised, and the population around ordered not to molest the Druzes. In consequence many hundred of these last have just come to Damascus, the first time for three months, to sell their produce and for traffic.

A small portion of the penalties due to the Hauranese has been already paid; the remainder, owing to scarcity of coin, is to be paid in grain and flocks within fifteen days. The troops will not be withdrawn until the conditions are fulfilled, a necessary precaution, as the Druzes will doubtless seek to evade full payment.

It will be my care to report to your Excellency in due time upon measures proposed to be taken with regard to the payment of arrears of land tax, the readjustment of taxation, and the garrisoning of the mountain by two or more battalions of troops to avoid similar outbreaks.

Dissatisfaction is evinced by the populations of Damascus and the Hauran at the pacific termination of this matter, the massing of 7,000 troops, the dispatch of the Commander-in-chief at the head of a special Commission of high dignitaries, together with the tone up to the last moment of the local Government press, having prepared them for retributory measures more in unison with their personal sentiments than the present pacific settlement.

I may venture to observe, however, that coercive measures would have resulted only in useless bloodshed, and in stirring up and perpetuating local passions; while on the other hand, the infliction of heavy pecuniary penalties is regarded in Syria as a punishment little short of death, and the absence of pecuniary compensation under any circumstance to a sufferer as eminently unsatisfactory.

Shortly after the departure of the Mushir for the Hauran I received a letter from the Druzes, translation of which I beg to inclose, as well as that of my reply.

Feeling confident that the merits of the case apart, any interference on my part could lead to no good result, and would tender directly to render more difficult any settlement, by instilling false hopes on the one side and engendering suspicion on the other, I declared at once my inability to do as they wanted. In doing thus, I trust I may meet with your Excellency's kind approval.

Although the result of my inquiries lead me to believe that the atrocities alleged to have been committed by the Druzes upon women never took place, the attack upon Kerak seems to have been, owing to the superior prowess and ferocity of the Druzes and the sudden collapse of resistance at the critical moment of the Moslems, little better than a massacre.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 107.

Letter said to be from Abou Ali Hannaury, Agent of the Hauran Druzes, and Ibrahim-el-Attrash, Sheikh.

(Translation.)

YOU will have heard of the petty quarrel which occurred between some of the population of the Jebel Druze and some of the Hauranese for known causes, when a few persons on both sides were killed. As the Mutessarif of the Hauran was an inveterate enemy of the Druzes, he did not telegraph a true account of it to the vilayet, but did so in an exaggerate form far from all truth.

He then wrote to the vilayet, giving an account of the matter, with the Hauranese' statements and with petitions from them, which contained exaggerations and stories of indescribable atrocities upon women which we never committed.

Upon such unjust and untrue statements the case has been referred by the vilayet to the Sublime Porte, and consequently orders have been issued for troops to be sent against us, which obliged us to arm ourselves and to depart from our obedience to the Government, although we are Ottoman subjects and living under its imperial shadow. As we know we do not deserve such treatment, and which has been occasioned by persons prejudiced against us, who purposely exaggerated the matter, it is our wish that an inquiry be made into the case. And as we are persuaded that you are of those whom Providence has created to uphold the interests of justice, we make this statement to you, requesting and beseeching you to support us in explaining what really occurred to the vilayet, as you have hitherto been accustomed to do, in order that, if the Government desires to do us justice, a Commission of Inquiry be formed, and be composed of foreigners having no object but to do us justice. And we engage ourselves to submit with judgment if what they allege against us is proved after a legal trial. At the same time, we decline to accept a Commission formed of persons hostile to our welfare, and with objects of their own in view. We repeat our prayers to you to comply with our request.

(Signed) ABOU ALI HANNAURY, *Agent of the Druze Community of the Hauran.* (*No seal.*)
(Seal and signature.) IBRAHIM EL ATTRASH.
March 21, 1881.

Inclosure 3 in No. 107.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Hauran Druzes.

(Translation.) *Damascus, March* 31, 1881.
(After compliments.)

I HAVE received your letter dated the 21st March, 1881, which reached me yesterday, the 30th March, and have understood its contents. You request me to take measures in order that a Commission, composed of foreigners, be formed, to investigate the matter of the recent conflict in the Hauran between Druzes and Hauranese. In reply, it is my duty to inform you that it is not within my power or competency to do what you ask. You are aware that an Imperial Commission left Damascus some days ago to make an inquiry, and I trust that, by its efforts, supported by your endeavours, means will be found to settle satisfactorily, in the interests of justice, the circumstances which have given rise to it.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 108.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 401.) *Constantinople, May* 20, 1881.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Vice-Consul Everett to Major Trotter on the subject of the distribution of the Lottery funds in the Sandjak of Bayazid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 108.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 9.) *Erzeroum, May* 5, 1881.
Sir,

IN accordance with my decision to go, if permitted, to Bayazid, for the purpose of finishing up the famine work (see my despatch No. 88 of the 29th ultimo), I telegraphed as follows to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"Mutessarif of Bayazid imprisoned our Examiner on famine work. Man since liberated, with written promise to cease work till allowed by Ottoman Government. I shall go to Bayazid Wednesday unless you order otherwise."

To this telegram I received answer yesterday:—

"Your telegram of the 30th April. I have spoken strongly to the Porte about difficulties thrown in the way of famine work and the arrest of your Examiner. They have promised to . . . . . may go to Bayazid.—GOSCHEN."

In the meantime, I have received an answer from the Vali to my letter of the 28th ultimo, a translation of which I inclose. You will perceive that he makes no allusion to my requests, and, falling back on his original statement, says that he can give no aid until an order comes from the Porte. I called on him yesterday, to make a final effort, by placing the situation before him, to induce him to assist us, and he

finally promised, seeing that I was determined to go down, to take the responsibility, and give instructions to all the officials to aid me. From private information since received, the Vali has gone somewhat beyond our agreement, and, in addition to requesting the officials to give me their assistance, is instructing the Mutessarif and the Kaïmakams to form Commissions, composed of the Idareh Medjlisses of their cazas, of which I am to be a member.

I have now requested the Vali to give me a copy of the General Instructions, in order that I may lay them before the Committee here; but, provided sufficient authority is left in my hands, we shall not make any difficulties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 108.

The Vali of Erzeroum to Captain Everett.

(Translation.) *Erzeroum, May 3, 1881.*

IN reply to your letter of the 28th ultimo I have the honour to acknowledge its receipt, and to inform you that, after having studied it, I referred it to the Idareh Medjliss, who told me that, with reference to this relief, the case had been written to the Minister of the Interior, as we have explained to you in our letter of the 12th April. Until an order comes from them, we must naturally wait. We have no answer from the Mutessarif of Bayazid.

No. 109.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 102.) *Constantinople, May 20, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Consul-General Wilson, inclosing Reports on the Vilayets of Khudavendikyar (Brussa) and Adana, by Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow and Lieutenant Bennet.

I should be glad if printed copies of these Reports, which are sent in original, could be supplied to me for transmission to Colonel Wilson, and for the archives of this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 109.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 8.) *Smyrna, May 9, 1881.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith interesting and detailed Reports on the Vilayets of Khudavendikyar (Brussa) and Adana, which have been prepared by Lieutenant-Colonel Picton Warlow, Madras Staff Corps, and Lieutenant Bennet, Royal Engineers.

In transmitting the above Reports, I would beg to draw your Excellency's attention to the melancholy picture which Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow draws of the present condition of the Province of Brussa, and to the interesting particulars given by Lieutenant Bennet with regard to the cultivation and crops of the great Adana Plain.

In consequence of the length of these Reports, no duplicate copies have been forwarded to me, and I would beg to suggest that, as with the Reports on the other vilayets, they may be printed, and that eight copies of each be supplied to me for distribution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 109.

Report on the Vilayet of Khudavendikyar.

Position of Vilayet.—The Vilayet of Khudavendikyar is situated between 26° 30′ and 31° east longitude, and 40° 30′ and 38° 10′ north latitude. It is bounded on the north by the Sea of Marmora and the Sandjak of Ismid; on the east by the Vilayets of Kastamuni, Angora, and Koniah; on the south by the Vilayet of Aidin, and on the west by the Ægean Sea and the Sandjak of Biga (Troad). It contains about 28,000 square miles, of which nearly three-fourths is covered with forests.

Divisions.—The vilayet is divided into the Sandjaks of Brussa, Kutaya, Kara-hissar, and Balikesri. The first of these is under the immediate charge of the Vali (Governor), while the others are under Mutessarifs (Lieutenant-Governors). The four Sandjaks are divided in 20 Kaïmakamliks, and subdivided into 44 Mudirliks.*

Population.—The population, as given by the official Almanack, is as follows:—

	Adult Males.
Moslems	418,000
Greeks	62,842
Armenians	24,125

To these must be added about 1,000 Jews and 20,000 refugees. Allowing a woman and child for each adult male, the total population may be roughly estimated at 1,570,719.

Sects.—The Christians are divided into Gregorian, Catholic, and Protestant Armenians, and Greek Church. The Protestants are very few in number, their conversion having been effected by American missionaries.

Mountains.—The principal feature of the country is the mountain-range of Olympus, which, immediately to the south of Brussa, rises to a height of 8,000 feet, and extends over nearly 800 square miles, throwing out two branches, one of which runs from 60 or 70 miles in a south-easterly direction; while the other, under various names, stretches down to the south-westerly extremity of the province, whose boundary on the side of Biga is formed by another range of mountains.

All the sandjaks, except Broussa, contain extensive treeless plains, broken only by isolated hills.

Lakes and Rivers.—Nearly due west of Brussa are two large lakes, Appollonia and Manyas. The principal rivers are the Sakaria (Sangarius), Susurlu (Mousulus), Adranos (Rhyndacus), Pursak (Thymbres), and the Gedis (Hermus).

Climate.—The climate of Khudavendikyar is temperate, and, on the whole, extremely healthy, although in some parts, and at certain times of year, intermittent and typhoid fevers are prevalent. The high inland plateaux are both colder in winter and hotter in summer than the town of Brussa and the coast districts. In the winter there is generally a very heavy snowfall, which, in the highlands of the interior, renders the roads altogether impassable for weeks together; the greatest rainfall is in spring and autumn.

Towns.—The principal towns are Brussa (50,000), Aivalu (38,000), Kara-hissar (25,000), Kutaya (23,000), Balikesri (16,000), Ushak (15,000), Eski-sheher (12,000).

Ports.—The ports in the Sea of Marmora are Gimlek, Moudania, and Panderena. The two former have steam communication with Constantinople three times, and the latter once, a-week.

Moudania is badly situated, and when there is a strong northerly wind, steamers are sometimes unable to put in; but Gimlek is always accessible, and has excellent anchorage in deep water, close to the shore, being perfectly safe in all weather.

Edremit and Aivalu, on the Ægean Sea, have considerable trade, but no regular line of steamers touches there.

Roads.—There is a fairly good road from Moudania to Brussa (18 miles), over which carriages can drive. A similar road was made to Gimlek, many years ago, but it has been allowed to fall entirely out of repair, and is now in a very bad state. Throughout the province the so-called roads are little better than broad cart-tracks, broken up in many places, and in others mere swamps in wet weather.

Canals.—There are no canals, but the River Susurlu has been deepened, and is now navigable for boats drawing not more than 3 feet of water for about 60 miles; if this work is continued the town of Balikesri will eventually be placed in direct communication with the sea, and a rich country opened out.

* *Vide* Appendix (A).

Telegraphs.—There is a fairly good system of telegraphs; a post is dispatched to, and received from, the interior of Anatolia once a-week.

Exports.—The exports consist principally of raw and manufactured silk, towels, carpets, tiftik (mohair) wool, cotton, opium, meerschaum clay, cattle, planks, and fruit.

Imports.—The imports are cloth, cotton goods, hardware, calico, mineral oils, glass, tea, sugar, coffee, &c.; during the present year, owing to the failure of crops, large quantities of wheat and flour have been imported, but this is quite exceptional.

Crops.—The principal crops are Indian corn, wheat, barley, potatoes, rice, millet, cotton, flax, and opium; fruits of nearly every description are very plentiful and of the finest quality.

Employment of People.—The Turks do very little in the way of trade, being mostly agriculturists, cattle-dealers, and carriers; Christians are found principally in the towns as merchants, manufacturers, money-lenders, shop-keepers, and mechanics; in Gimlek and some other places on the coast they live on the produce of their olive gardens and vineyards, and there are a few villages in the interior where they farm, but the number so employed is very small.

Wages.—In the towns common labourers get from 6 to 7 piastres (1*s.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*) a-day, while skilled workmen, such as painters, masons, carpenters, and blacksmiths, earn from 15 to 30 piastres (2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*); women employed in the silk factories at Brussa are paid at the rate of 4½ piastres (9*d.*) in winter and 6 piastres (1*s.*) in summer; in the interior of the province wages are somewhat lower; food being very cheap, the working classes (in average years) are better off here than in England; during the summer and autumn they live almost entirely on fruit and vegetables, the prices of which are absurdly low.

Prices of food.—

	Piastres.		*d.*	*d.*
Bread	2 to 2½	an oke =	1½ to 2	a lb.
Beef	3 to 3½	"	1¾ to 2¼	"
Mutton	5 to 6	"	3¼ to 4	"
Eggs	¾	each	½	each.
Rice	1½ to 4½	an oke	1¼ to 3	a lb.
Potatoes	1	"	1	for 1½ lb.
Wheat	40 to 50	a kilé.		
Barley	17 to 20	"		
Maize	18 to 20	"		
Sugar	5 to 6	an oke	1½ to 2	a lb.

These figures apply only to the town of Brussa; in different parts of the province prices vary considerably, and are very high at present in the Sandjaks of Kutaya and Kara-hissar where the crops have been nearly destroyed by locusts, and the people are on the verge of famine.

Prices of Live Stock.—The average prices of live stock are as follows:—

Camels	20*l.*
Horses, riding	6*l.* to 20*l.*
" draught	6*l.* to 9*l.*
Mules	7*l.* to 10*l.*
Asses	2*l.* to 6*l.*
Oxen (a pair)	5*l.* to 9*l.*
Cows	2*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*
Sheep	16*s.* to 18*s.*
Buffaloes	4*l.* to 7*l.*
Goats, mohair	2*l.* to 5*l.*
" common	8*s.* to 10*s.*

Tariffs.—Tariffs vary in the different Municipalities, and are placed only on the necessary articles of food, viz., bread, meat, grain, and oil.

Octroi.—Octroi duties also vary in different towns, and are levied only on grain and cattle for slaughter.

Rates of Interest.—The rates of interest, always very high, have risen greatly of late; owing to famine in a considerable portion of the province, and to the dearness of money, which is scarcely to be had, and commands a fancy price; at this moment in the town of Brussa 24 per cent. is charged for loans on good security, while in some instances as much as 10 paras per lira (¼*d.* for 18*s.*) per diem, or 90 per cent., is asked and given.

Principal Towns.—Brussa.—The town of Brussa is situated at the foot of Mount Olympus, on high ground, about 500 feet above the level of the sea, and faces north, overlooking a long, narrow valley, which runs in a south-easterly direction from the sea for about 25 miles. The old citadel, built on a projecting spur of the mountain,

divides the town into two parts, both of which it entirely commands. Of late years the population has decreased, and is now estimated at between 50,000 and 55,000, divided somewhat as follows:—

Turks	46,000
Greeks	4,200
Armenians	4,500
Jews	300

This does not include a floating population of Moslem refugees, who at present number about 6,000 souls.

The principal industry of the town is spinning off raw silk from the cocoons. This operation is performed in large factories, of which there are fifty-five in Brussa and its suburbs, of which nearly one quarter have been closed during the last year. Those still open give employment to about 10,000 hands, the great majority of whom are women and girls. The total production of raw silk for the year is estimated at 250,000 lbs. of good quality and 400,000 lbs. of inferior and waste silk. Prices of raw silk have fallen steadily, those for the last three years being as follows:—

	Per lb.
Patent silk—	
1878	30*s.*
1879	27*s.*
1880	23*s.*

Partly from this cause, and partly from disease amongst the silkworms, which has been very prevalent of late, the trade has greatly fallen off, and some of the wealthiest manufacturers have been almost ruined.

A small quantity of silk cloths are manufactured. The work is done entirely by hand in private houses. Towelling of excellent quality is also manufactured in the same manner, but this business, too, is falling off, being unable to hold its own against the cheaper machine-made article imported from Europe, and finding an ever-decreasing market in the interior, owing to the general impoverishment of the country.

The hot springs of Brussa, impregnated with sulphur and iron, attract a considerable number of invalids from Constantinople during the spring and autumn, and are considered very beneficial in cases of rheumatism and skin disease.

The climate of Brussa is good, except for a couple of months in the autumn, when intermittent fever is prevalent. In winter and early spring the changes of temperature are very severe and sudden, the thermometer occasionally falling from 15 to 20 degrees in the course of twenty-four hours.*

Southerly winds are at all times warm and relaxing, while those from the north are cold and bracing.

Aivalu.—Aivalu is a very thriving commercial town, with a purely Greek population. It was destroyed entirely in 1831, and its site remained waste for thirty years. It now contains from 35,000 to 40,000 people, and does a large export trade.

Kara-hissar.—Kara-hissar, a town of from 20,000 to 25,000 people, of whom 4,500 are Armenians, is the centre of the opium trade, being situated in a large fertile plateau, the soil of which is specially suited to the poppy. The average produce does not exceed 30 lbs. per acre, although as much as 70 lbs. is obtained in certain parts. The crop of the entire Sandjak of Kara-hissar averages 1,000 bags, of 165 lbs. per bag, valued at from 12*s.* to 13*s.* per lb., giving a total value of about 100,000*l.* During last year the crop was almost destroyed by the severity of the winter (1879-80), and yielded barely 200 bags, which sold at an extremely high rate, viz., 24*s.* to 26*s.* per lb. Such, at least, was the information given to me on the spot, but I have reason to believe that the amount really raised was considerably greater, and that a great deal of it never paid the Government tax (10 per cent.). Smuggling goes on to a great extent, and is very profitable to all concerned in it. Nearly all the opium produced in this sandjak goes to Smyrna.

Ushak.—Ushak is celebrated for the manufacture of what are commonly known as "Turkey carpets;" they are all made by hand, on small looms, and are sold in Smyrna at prices ranging from 1 to 3 medjidiés an "arshin," or from 6*s.* 6*d.* to 19*s.* a square yard; the outturn for last year was about 85,000 square yards; about 6,000 people, mostly women, are employed in this business, and are paid by the piece. During the last few years European patterns and bright mineral dyes have been introduced, and are superseding the original native devices and colours to such an extent that, in a short time, it will be difficult to obtain a carpet of the fine old type.

* *Vide* Appendix (B).

Kutaya.—Kutaya was long noted for the manufacture of tiles, which were used for the adornment of mosques at Constantinople and other distant places, and for its fine pottery, but the art of designing and painting both these articles is dying out, and those now produced are far inferior to the old ones.

Eski-sheher.—Eski-sheher is known principally as the emporium for meerschaum clay, locally termed "Eski-sheher stone," large quarries of which are situated about 20 miles from the town; they are worked almost wholly by foreigners, *i.e.*, Persians, Kurds, Circassians, &c., as the Turks will not undertake the work, which is very severe and unhealthy. The clay is bought up by Armenian merchants, subjected to a process of cleaning and smoothing, and then exported to Trieste viâ Karamusal, on the Gulf of Ismid. The value of the yearly outturn is estimated at £ T. 150,000, or about 135,000*l.*; the Government royalty of 10 per cent. ought, consequently, to be 13,500*l.*, but this is evaded to such an extent that the actual sum realized has not hitherto exceeded 2,750*l.*, nor is this to be wondered at, seeing that their system of levying the royalty absolutely leaves its payment optional, as buyer and seller have merely to agree in order to defraud the collector, who either takes the word of the seller as to the amount which he has sold, or checks his statement by a reference to the entries in the books of the purchaser; the only further precaution taken is the employment of spies, who are supposed to keep their eyes and ears open, and to know all that goes on.

Mines.—In the neighbourhood of Adranas (Adriani) there are several chrome mines, and between Moualitch and Balikesri there are mines of boracide being worked; near Turhala, in the Caza of Somah, coal of an inferior quality is found; this is largely used in the cotton factories of Kirkagatch and Bergamo; in the hills on the western frontier of Balikesri lead is said to exist in great quantities, but no attempt has been made to work it; silver mines were worked in old Roman days near Balya, in the same sandjak.

Quarries.—Very fine marble is quarried in the Island of Marmora, and some of a coarser description in the Caza of Bogunditsch.

Forests.—The vast forests which cover so large a portion of the vilayet produce magnificent oak, fir, and pine of various kinds, which would prove a source of wealth were there any means of conveying timber to the sea, but, at present, they are valueless, and the revenue derived from them is very small. The forests which formerly covered the lower slopes of Mount Olympus, close to Brussa, have been quite destroyed, as, instead of thinning out judiciously and taking only full-grown trees, the Turks have cut down everything they came across, and the town is now dependent for its supply of firewood on places some 20 miles off.

Tiftik.—Tiftik (mohair) made from the wool of the Angora goat, has for many years been one of the principal productions of the province, but the trade is now in a bad way owing partly to the constantly decreasing demand and lower prices in the London market, and partly to the severity of the winter of 1879-80, which is said to have killed no less than 60 per cent. of the goats; the increase of the tax from 4½ piastres to 6½ piastres per head, which the Turkish Government have just thought fit to make, will probably give the *coup de grâce* to this branch of industry, and still further impoverish the country. I hear that already a considerable number of these valuable goats have found their way to the butchers' shops in this town.

Trade Routes.—The principal trade routes are from Angora and Koniah, viâ Kara-hissar and Kutaya, to Moudania and Gimlek, from Balikesri to Banderma, and from the southern parts of that sandjak to Edremit and Aivalu, from Kara-hissar and Ushak to Sart (Sardis), and thence by rail to Smyrna.

Taxes.—Taxes are the same as in other parts of the Empire, and collected in the same manner; the change from farming the tithes to collecting them by Government officials does not appear to be so much appreciated by the village people as I had anticipated from all that I had heard of the crying evils of the old system; they admit that the new arrangement is better, but do not seem to care much about it.

The "hedel-asskare" (exemption tax) is levied in lump through the heads of the different Christian communities, and as the Turkish authorities always demand the same amount, without reference to increase or decrease of population, the sum paid by individuals varies considerably, and is sometimes much in excess of the legal amount, viz., 27½ piastres; a Greek boatman mentioned, merely in the course of conversation, that he had paid 45 piastres last year, and 55 piastres this year.

Refugees.—It is extremely difficult to obtain any reliable statistics regarding the number of the refugees, as many of them come and go from neighbouring vilayets; the total of those who came over since the beginning of the Russian war, and who

have remained in the province, is estimated at 60,000, which is probably not far from the mark. During last year alone 20,000 came by sea to Moudania and Gimlek, in addition to a considerable number who came by land from Ismid, and to another batch who were sent to the south of the province by rail from Smyrna. Nearly all of these have been settled down, one way or another, and have not been allowed to plunder the people, as in the adjoining Sandjak of Ismid. Many of them, no doubt, are very badly off, and suffered terribly during the winter of 1879-80, and to a less extent during last winter, but, so far as I can learn, the mass of them have enough to keep them from absolute starvation. In the town of Brussa there are at present 1,300 families of refugees (about 6,000 or 7,000 souls), including nearly 1,000 widows, many of them with children. As yet houses have been built for only 100 families, the remaining 900 obtaining shelter in mosques, public buildings, schools, khans, ruinous houses, stables, &c. How they live is a mystery, as few of them have any money, and only a certain number can obtain work as cart-drivers, porters, &c. During the latter part of the winter I was enabled to supply food to about 430 women and 250 children from charitable funds remitted to me by Mr. F. R. St. John, Secretary of Embassy, Constantinople.

Courts.—The new system of Courts and legal procedure, slavishly imitated from the Code Napoléon, is, in itself, but ill adapted for a semi-civilized, thinly populated country, with no railroads or even roads, and a densely ignorant people. Granted, however, that the system was suitable, it would be utterly impossible to work it with the men who at present hold the higher judicial appointments, into which they have been pitchforked as chance or favour might direct, without, in most cases, any previous training. In no single instance have I heard any one, Pasha or peasant, say a good word for the Courts and procedure now established. They are universally condemned as being even more expensive and dilatory than the old ones, without possessing any compensating advantages.

Gaols.—The two gaols (Brussa and Kara-hissar) which I have inspected are badly situated, badly built, badly arranged, and horribly over-crowded. Men under trial or sentenced for grave offences are so heavily ironed as almost to prevent their moving. During the greater part of the day the prisoners are cooped up in stifling rooms, with nothing to do; bread and water is their only food, provided by Government, but the richer ones are allowed to get what they like through their friends.

Police.[*]—The zaptiehs here, as in other parts, are generally considerably in arrears with their pay, and are generally in rags. At the large towns they are well armed with Winchester carbines, but in out-of-the-way places they can show only antiquated fire-arms of the most miscellaneous description. Still, they do their work better than could be expected, and keep down crime to a certain extent. Brigandage does not exist—*i.e.*, there are not, so far as my knowledge goes, any large organized gangs of robbers, and the main roads are tolerably safe, although, in the wilder parts of the country, travellers are often stopped and made to deliver.

Towards the end of 1880 a large band of robbers suddenly made their appearance in the mountains near Gimlek, where they committed several murders and carried off a rich farmer; but they were vigorously chased by the police, and escaped only by taking boat and returning to the European side of the Sea of Marmora, from whence they had come.

Education.—In Brussa there is a Military College, where lads between 12 and 16 years of age are educated for the army. The number of pupils at present is eighty. The other Turkish schools are of an inferior description. The Christians are well provided with schools, there being in the town 3 Greek, 2 Armenian, and 3 Protestant schools; in Aivalu there are good Greek schools, but in the other towns there is not much done in the way of education.

Land Tenure.—By far the greater portion of the land is in the hands of peasant proprietors, owning from 3 to 20 acres, nearly two-thirds of which is always allowed to lie fallow. There are a few great landlords, who farm some of their property and let out the rest, either at a fixed rent or on the share-of-profits system.

Habits and Customs of People.—The habits and customs of the people differ little from those of adjoining provinces, which have been fully described in the Reports of their respective Vice-Consuls. There is, however, considerably less fanaticism. This remark applies especially to the coast districts, where Europeans are so common as to have become familiar; but even in the interior a great change has taken place. In Kara-hissar, not very long ago, it was unsafe to appear in the streets without a "fez,"

[*] *Vide* Appendix (C).

and Christian women could not appear unveiled; even the wife of the Bank Manager (a Smyrniote lady) had to adopt the national veil. Now any European lady might appear in her own dress without exciting any extraordinary remark.

"Citizens" from some quarter.

Present Condition of Province.—The past year has been a most disastrous one, and its close found a great part of the province in a most wretched condition. The long and terribly severe winter of 1879-80 destroyed three-fourths of the opium crop on which the people of Kara-hissar depend so much; the grain harvest promised well, but, before it could be reaped, swarms of locusts arrived from the south and destroyed everything. Happily the entire Sandjaks of Kara-hissar and Kutaya and a small part of Brussa. The distress which ensued was the more severe as the people had already been impoverished by two bad seasons and by land having fallen out of cultivation owing to so large a portion of the able-bodied men having perished in the Russian war. Now the Redif have again been called out, and thousands of unarmed men dragged away from their fields just as the cultivation season was beginning.

I hear that in the southern parts of Kara-hissar the villages are actually dying of starvation, while throughout that sandjak and Kutaya the misery is extreme, and so much from an absolute want of food, which has been imported largely from Angora and Konieh, as from the people not having the wherewithal to buy it.

While writing this, I have heard that young locusts have appeared in great numbers in several parts of the Brussa Sandjak. The Vali has issued stringent orders for their destruction, and has himself gone out in one direction and dispatched the members of his Council in others, to superintend the work; but I fear there is very little chance of its being effectually carried out; should any large proportion of these Horrors come to maturity, we should there be another flight of them from the south, a calamity the most terrible description is inevitable. Altogether, the outlook for this province as regards the ensuing year is gloomy in the extreme, the only bright feature in it being the opium which promises to give a considerable crop this year.

The deepening and consolidating of the River Susurlu should be mentioned in this point one that every merchant in the town of Balikesri, and it should be made navigable for steamers of such a size as would admit of goods being conveyed direct to Constantinople without transhipment; and the same thing, the communication between the three great lakes Manyas and Apollonia should be improved.

Canal roads are most urgently required in the first to be taken in hand should be those leading from Kara-hissar and Kutayeh to the coast.

As for the personal condition of the consulate, it is doubtful whether railroads would pay; the harvests, the time from which to expect an answer to complaints, if mailed at Brussa, should ever be completed, if mails are to join the main line at the neighbouring station by ferry-boat on the Marmora, and likewise the transit of Lapseki; the country to be traversed is not difficult, and the line would benefit most of the way through the Brussa and Denishehr valleys.

This light narrow-gauge line which was constructed some years ago from Mendemia to Brussa was badly designed and built, and is now in a ruinous condition; its reconstruction cannot be recommended, as Cuvinje on its eastern terminus, the sandstone peak of any line connecting the Sanjeyrna and Brussa line to Ushak would be of great advantage to that part of this province.

(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Vice-Consul of Khudavendikyar, Assessments, and Zeraib.

Brussa, April 30, 1881.

APPENDIX (A).

SANDJAKS, Cazas, and Mudirliks in the Vilayet of Khudavendikyar, with Adult Male Population.

Sandjak of Brussa.			Sandjak of Balikesri.			Sandjak of Kutahia.			Sandjak of Kara-hissar.		
Town or Caza.	Mudirlik.	Adult Males.	Town or Caza.	Mudirlik.	Adult Males.	Town or Caza.	Mudirlik.	Adult Males.	Town or Caza.	Mudirlik.	Adult Males.
Town of Brussa (33,674).	Gueljé-Dagh ..	3,657	Balikesri (15,818) ..	Ivrindi ..	5,872	Kutahia (15,459) ..	Yeranjik ..	5,112	Kara-hissar (25,586) ..	Shatout	6,025
	Khrisseli Cassaba ..	4,492		Sinka Bazaar ..	11,071		Gemeli	1,918	Bolvadeen (8,551) ..	Shekhlu	7,105
	Hermanlijik ..	4,278		Kapakli	5,111		Gueuesh	5,150	Azarsu (7,352) ..	Tchamdereiko ..	2,754
	Arbanos ..	9,705		Kemeni	2,551		Altuntash	4,652	Sandukly (23,336) ..	Gebler	10,297
Mendemia (3,726) ..	Triglia	1,888	Ussak (3,612) ..	Kipsi Dagh ..	5,119		Tawshanly ..	6,248		Ichekly	4,958
Gemlek (5,991) ..	Bazarkevy ..	10,541		Mamoura ..	2,158	Ushak (13,187) ..	Ilanly	5,125	Tchai (12,126) ..		
Moudania (3,709) ..				Pasha Limnia ..	2,502		Gemlek	1,702			
Ainegol (11,903) ..	Domanitsch ..	2,995		Near Ali ..	403	Gediz (Cadi) (12,223) ..	Slepkhana	1,252			
	Barazijik ..	1,281	Edremit (8,155) ..	Jeyran	2,480	Simav (12,273) ..	Eruse	9,762			
Biledjik (2,851) ..	Lefkeh	3,139		*Sarmikabad ..	1,127		Dagkarda	1,248			
	Soyud	4,702	Bandermah (3,175) ..	Isvoreni	6,038	E-khisshar (10,157) ..	Seydel Ghazi ..	2,642			
	Gul-Bazaar ..	6,705		Mancyas	2,785		Beruyek	4,115			
Jenishehir (6,878) ..	Inik	4,947		Asilanlee	2,197						
			Bochaltsch (6,615) ..	Sandikly	2,251						
				Ivlar	4,207						
			Aivalu (8,267) ..								
			Gemlik Sandjak (2,315) ..								
			*Kemakeyeh (2,737) ..								

All the numbers given are of adult males; in the towns are included villages in their immediate neighbourhood which do not form separate Mudirliks. The places marked (*) are not down in the map, and I have been unable to ascertain their position.

(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Vice-Consul of Khudavendikyar.

Brussa, April 12, 1881.

Appendix (B.)

Thermometrical Readings taken at Brussa, December 1880.

Date.	Wet. 10 A.M.	Dry. 10 A.M.	Wet. 4 P.M.	Dry. 4 P.M.	Remarks.
Dec. 1 ..	46	49½	47	47	1st to 4th, fine.
,, 2 ..	42½	44½	45	46½	5th, cloudy.
,, 3 ..	45½	48	47	49½	5th-6th and 6th-7th nights, light snow.
,, 4 ..	43	44½	46½	48	6th, 7th, cloudy.
,, 5 ..	41½	40	36	36	8th, snow.
,, 6 ..	34	38	34½	37½	9th, 10th, cloudy.
,, 7 ..	31	33	32	36	10th-11th night, snow.
,, 8 ..	32	34	31	32	11th, cloudy.
,, 9 ..	31½	33	35	34	12th, 13th, fine.
,, 10 ..	32½	35	45	41	14th, rain.
,, 11 ..	36	36	41	38	15th, 16th, 17th, fine.
,, 12 ..	36	37	36	38	18th, cloudy.
,, 13 ..	35	30½	37	38	19th to 31st, fine.
,, 14 ..	38	41	46	46	
,, 15 ..	53	58½	47	48	
,, 16 ..	39	41	42½	44	
,, 17 ..	45	47	50	52	
,, 18 ..	48½	51	52½	55½	
,, 19 ..	49½	52	52½	56½	
,, 20 ..	49½	50½	51½	54	
,, 21 ..	48	50½	45	46	
,, 22 ..	39	42	42	46	The thermometer was hung outside a window, exposed to the sun.
,, 23 ..	39	41	42	46½	
,, 24 ..	36½	38	41½	44	
,, 25 ..	45½	44	46	51	
,, 26 ..	47	49	50	55	
,, 27 ..	46	46	45	46	
,, 28 ..	41	46	46	48	
,, 29 ..	37	37	39	40	
,, 30 ..	38	50	37	40	
,, 31 ..	39	42½	45½	45	

January 1881.

Date.	Wet. 10 A.M.	Dry. 4 P.M.	Wet. 10 A.M.	Dry. 4 P.M.	Remarks.
Jan. 1 ..	45	47	47	50	1st to 6th, very fine.
,, 2 ..	47	50	51	51	6th to 14th, dull, cloudy; heavy rain during nights, and several violent gales, also at night.
,, 3 ..	47½	49½	53	54	
,, 4 ..	46	48	52	55	
,, 5 ..	44	47	47	47	15th, 16th, fine.
,, 6 ..	43	44	47½	50	17th, thunderstorm; heavy fall of snow.
,, 7 ..	39	41	41	43	18th, 19th, fine.
,, 8 ..	41½	41½	44	44	20th, fine, thaw.
,, 9 ..	40	40	39	39	21st, heavy rain.
,, 10 ..	37	39	41	41	21st-22nd night, heavy snow.
,, 11 ..	39	40	46	47	22nd, snowing all day.
,, 12 ..	43½	45	48½	48½	23rd, heavy fall of snow.
,, 13 ..	45½	43½	47	47	23rd-24th night, thunderstorm.
,, 14 ..	48	51	61	64	24th, snow.
,, 15 ..	51½	44½	54	56	25th, 26th, fine.
,, 16 ..	55½	62½	58	64	27th, 28th, rain.
,, 17 ..	58	64	36	34	29th, steady rain.
,, 18 ..	31½	33	38	36	30th, 31st, cloudy.
,, 19 ..	39½	41½	48	49	
,, 20 ..	56	64	55	63½	
,, 21 ..	51	55	46½	47	
,, 22 ..	33	34	31	30	
,, 23 ..	28	30	33½	34	
,, 24 ..	34½	30½	38	34	
,, 25 ..	30	30½	31	30	
,, 26 ..	32	28	32	30	
,, 27 ..	36	38	40½	38½	
,, 28 ..	39	39	45	41	
,, 29 ..	50	52½	52	51	
,, 30 ..	45	44	46	47	
,, 31 ..	48	49	53	55	

February 1881.

Date.	Wet. 10 A.M.	Dry. 10 A.M.	Wet. 4 P.M.	Dry. 4 P.M.	Remarks.
Feb. 1 ..	48	48	51	50	1st to 6th, cloudy; 7th, fine.
,, 2 ..	46	46	48	48	8th to 14th, cloudy, slight rain.
,, 3 ..	47	48	48	48	14th-15th and 15th-16th nights, slight fall of snow.
,, 4 ..	45	46	43½	45	17th, 18th, bright.
,, 5 ..	46½	46	48	50	19th, cloudy.
,, 6 ..	48½	49	52	55	20th, fine.
,, 7 ..	50	50	54½	56½	20th-21st night, light fall of snow.
,, 8 ..	47	48	50	52	21st, light fall of snow.
,, 9 ..	45	44	50	49	22nd to 28th, fine.
,, 10 ..	47	40	53	50	
,, 11 ..	49	47	46	46	
,, 12 ..	50	55	51	51	
,, 13 ..	54	56	49	54	
,, 14 ..	43	43	38	39	
,, 15 ..	38½	39	36	37	
,, 16 ..	35	36	35	35	
,, 17 ..	37	38	36	40	
,, 18 ..	34	36	39	40	
,, 19 ..	38	38	36	38	
,, 20 ..	38	38	44	44	
,, 21 ..	35	35	37	38	
,, 22 ..	33	34	34	36	
,, 23 ..	38½	39½	37½	39	
,, 24 ..	35	38½	37½	40	
,, 25 ..	36	38	38	40	
,, 26 ..	34	36	41	42	
,, 27 ..	38	38	39	40	
,, 28 ..	36	38	43	45	

March 1881.

Date.	Wet. 10 A.M.	Dry. 4 P.M.	Wet. 10 A.M.	Dry. 4 P.M.	Remarks.
Mar. 1 ..	41	43	47	48	1st to 3rd, fine.
,, 2 ..	46	48	54	58	4th, slight rain.
,, 3 ..	51	62	50	52	5th to 10th, very fine.
,, 4 ..	41	43	40	41	11th, rain.
,, 5 ..	46	48	43	41	12th, 13th, fine.
,, 6 ..	42	44½	54	52	14th, heavy rain.
,, 7 ..	55	57½	51	52	14th-15th night, snow.
,, 8 ..	54	57½	54	57	15th, 16th, 17th, snow.
,, 9 ..	58	62	57	63	18th, slight snow.
,, 10 ..	49	52	47	50	19th, snow and rain.
,, 11 ..	50	52	49	50	20th, very fine.
,, 12 ..	42	45	45	46	21st, 22nd, 23rd, fine.
,, 13 ..	46	47	50	55	23rd-24th, night snow.
,, 14 ..	46	46	43	41	24th, snow and rain.
,, 15 ..	40	38	40	42	25th to 31st, very fine.
,, 16 ..	34	37	32	32	
,, 17 ..	33½	35	34	35	
,, 18 ..	38	36	39	38½	
,, 19 ..	42	42	43	43	
,, 20 ..	46	49	54	58	
,, 21 ..	54	59	54	59	
,, 22 ..	50	52	65	62	
,, 23 ..	57	61	57	63	
,, 24 ..	37	37½	36	35	
,, 25 ..	30	42	44	46	
,, 26 ..	50	51	55	56	
,, 27 ..	62	65	62	66	
,, 28 ..	65	72	67	74	
,, 29 ..	65	68	67	69	
,, 30 ..	61	66	64	68	
,, 31 ..	63	70	63	70	

Appendix (C).

Number and Cost of Police in Khudavendikyar Vilayet.

	Cavalry.			Infantry.		
	Numbers.	Pay.	Total.	Numbers.	Pay.	Total.
		Piastres.	Piastres.		Piastres.	Piastres.
Colonel	1	2,000	2,000	..	..	..
Secretary	1	950	950	..	..	..
Majors	4	950	3,800	..	..	..
Clerks	4	360	1,520	..	..	..
Captains	6	380	2,280	9	380	3,420
Lieutenants	6	285	1,710	9	285	2,565
Accountants	6	190	1,140	9	190	1,710
Sergeants	24	101½	2,508	36	95	3,420
Corporals	48	95	4,560	72	85½	6,156
Privates	697	85½	59,593½	851	76	64,676
Total	797		80,061½	996		81,947

Besides their pay, all ranks receive rations of bread, and the cavalry forage for their horses.
In addition to this permanent force, there is at present a temporary force of 283 cavalry and 50 infantry.

Inclosure 3 in No. 109.

Report on the Vilayet of Adana.

THE Adana Vilayet, though perhaps one of the smallest, can certainly not be considered the least important province of the Sultan's Asiatic dominions. With a sea-frontage extending from a point between Piyas and Alexandretta on the eastern shore of the Gulf of Scanderoon for 300 miles westward to near Alaya, bounded on the north by the magnificent Taurus ranges, rich in mineral and forest wealth, and containing between them and the sea a vast plain of almost unrivalled fertility, with the northern portion of the Giaour Dagh and part of the plain beyond as its eastern boundary, there is practically no limit to its resources, [while from a military point of view, as the possible base of operations for an English force against a Russian advance, it is of extreme importance].*

The province is divided into four sandjaks, viz., Jebel Bereket, the eastern division, consisting of the Giaour Dagh above Alexandretta and a portion of the plains on either side; the Adana central sandjak, which comprises almost the whole of the Tchukur Ova (plain), and extends for some hours into the Taurus, westward of the Seihoon; the Kozan Sandjak to the north, chiefly mountainous, but extending also out on to the eastern portion of the plain north of the Jeihan; and the Itchel Sandjak, west, a rocky and mountainous region, thinly populated and unimportant.

The only towns of any size are Adana and Tarsus, the former with a mixed population of about 28,000 and the latter of 15,000, both situated in the plain and connected by the only good road in the district with the chief sea-port, Mersina.

The male population of the whole vilayet, by religious communities, is given as under, and I see no reason to doubt the tolerable accuracy of the Return.

	Males.
Moslem	146,275
Armenian	13,620
Greek	2,193
Catholic	373
Protestant	714
Total	163,186

In the Moslems are included all who do not profess Christianity, but some of the various tribes can certainly not be considered followers of Mahommed, nor indeed of any other known religion. The vilayet is composed of heterogeneous mixture of incongruous sects and nationalities, which not so long ago, perhaps twenty or thirty years at most, formed as perfect a bear-garden as it is possible to imagine. Now this is all changed. Dervish Pasha's campaign, about fifteen years ago, appears to have utterly destroyed the power of the Beys and Aghas, who then ruled supreme, and the people, reduced to the condition of sheep without a shepherd, are comparatively speaking harmless. I believe the idea was to compel the nomad tribes in the Giaour Dagh to change their calling all at once from pastoral to agricultural, and with this

* *Query* omit from Blue Book.

object they were hunted out of the mountains, their tents burnt, and they were compelled to build permanent habitations on the burning plains where the seats of government were established. It is needless to say that in this respect the affair has been a complete fiasco; the houses have tumbled down, the tents have been replaced, the Government buildings even are scarcely habitable, and, although contrary to the orders of the Government, when summer arrives nearly all follow their flocks and herds and troop off northwards to Elbostan, Gyuksun, to the Uzun Yailas, and to Kaisarieh and the Taurus, anywhere out of the pestilential fever-stricken plains on which they had been settled. They pretend to do a little in the agricultural way, but as yet they have not taken kindly to it, and their fields present a great contrast to those usually met with cultivated by the regular inhabitants of the plains. Had they been shown how to commence, had facilities been afforded, and a judicious and gradual change attempted, and some little humanity shown in the selection of sites for villages, &c., the result might have been far different; as it is, though greatly reduced in numbers, I believe, their advent in the north and the devastation they commit *en route* to their yailas are a source of serious embarrassment to the people whose lands they traverse, and of disturbance generally.

Thus, taking them by sandjaks, we find the population of the Jebel Bereket Sandjak to consist of the following nomad or semi-nomad tribes, in addition to the regular inhabitants, Turks, Armenians, &c. On the eastern side we find the Kurdish tribes Delikhanlu and Jelikhanlu; on the west, Turkmen, Djerid, and Tajerli; and in the mountains, Maronites, Tatchitalu, and Tchinganes.

In Adana we have the refugees, Noghai Tcherkes and Tatars, Fellahs or Ansiriyehs, Turks, Negroes, Persians, Afghans, Indians, Arabs, Syrians, Greeks, Armenians; while, as nomads, there are Bosdaghanli, Karahajerli, Sirkinti, Karakayali, Farsak, Kizil-bashi, Aidinli, and others.

In Kozan we find Avshars and Rahanlu in addition to most of those I have mentioned before.

Itchel Sandjak I am not acquainted with.

Most of these people I have myself met, but there are said to be many others, such as Ulush Tekelis, Tachtaji, Elwanli, Kalinli, Dindarli, Solakli, Omerli, Menemenji, Allah-dinli, Sofulu, with whom I am unacquainted, and who have very probably become absorbed since the disappearance of their Chiefs.

The Adana Plain, called Tchukur Ova by Kiepert, properly consists of two plains, one extending from Mersina eastwards as far as Missis, and containing the whole of the country to the south with the Jeihan as its eastern boundary, with an approximate area of between 700 and 800 square miles; and the other extending from Sis eastwards along the southern slopes of the Taurus to its junction with the Giaour Dagh, with a southern boundary of low mountains skirting the sea and extending from Karatash Point to beyond Missis, where it is met again by the fringes of the Taurus, the area of which I have not been able to compute. Both these immense plains are composed of the richest loam soil with scarcely any stones, but that of Adana is far ahead in agriculture. Evidences of bygone prosperity and a teeming population, ruined towns and villages, old castles, fortresses, and aqueducts, are often met with, and in the eastern plain especially are sad and forcible reminders of a better state of energy and vitality than that now presented by the squalid cane and reed hovels of the present generation. Still, to the state of affairs existing in the reign of terror of the Beys and Aghas, the present condition of these plains presents a startling contrast; the Adana Plain, with the exception of such portions as are liable to inundations, is rapidly being brought under cultivation, and the Christians here as elsewhere are becoming the owners of large farms and are ousting the improvident Turk. The value of land has enormously increased of late years; what could formerly be acquired at a nominal value of perhaps 10 paras (about a halfpenny) the donum (one-fifth of an acre), is now in many instances worth a lira (18s.) or even more; nor is this to be wondered at considering its fertility; still there is no enterprise, no confidence, and the tillage is conducted in the original primitive manner. The following information, gathered from one of the chief land-owners, may be interesting as affording some insight into the state of agriculture at the present time.

The farm I visited is situated about 15 miles south of Adana, and consists of about 6,500 donums (1,300 acres) of excellent soil. The farm buildings are excellent for this country, a dwelling-house of stone (the other buildings are of tile and mortar, the usual building materials in Adana), large barns, granaries, cattle-houses, stables, all kept clean and sweet, the whole forming a large farmyard, with poultry, pigeons, &c. The chief crops on the plain are wheat, barley, cotton, and sesame. Roughly speaking,

2,000 dönums are in wheat and barley, 2,000 in cotton and sesame, and 2,000 idle, *i.e.*, grass-land; grass is never sown, but comes at once, and yet the crops are very clean. The remaining 500 dönums being occupied by the buildings, a large kitchen garden which produces all kinds of fruits and vegetables, vineyards, a plot of oats, lentils, and peas, and for experimental purposes, such as linseed and opium. Land is usually cultivated for ten years in succession and then allowed to remain idle three or four, but this is not necessary, I should say, nor universal, for at Karatash I saw magnificent crops on land which I was assured had been continuously cultivated for one hundred years.

The rotation of crops has not attracted much attention; land which has been lying fallow is broken in winter, when the ground is soft, and ploughed over and over the following summer, autumn, and winter to kill the grass and weeds. In March or April, fifteen months after it was first broken, it is put into cotton or sesame, which is gathered in August or September, and then with one ploughing it is put into wheat or barley in October, which is reaped the following May or June, after which it goes into wheat and barley again, or allowed to remain idle till the following spring, when it is put into cotton or sesame. After the first crop, land is often ploughed twice at right angles, and a third time, just before sowing, when it is rudely rolled with a heavy square log of wood.

Cotton and sesame are hoed as soon as well up to kill the weeds and thin the plants if necessary. The grape produce is enormous; vines live from thirty to fifty years; they are cut back and the ground ploughed or hoed in March, and the grapes are ripe in July.

Sesame is pulled, roots and all, rather before it is ripe, and taken to the threshing-ground, where it is allowed to remain a few days till the pods open; it is then taken in small bundles or sheaves, turned head downwards and gently tapped, when the seed pours out; it is afterwards winnowed and passed through a sieve, and the stalks are stacked to serve as fuel, or, if necessary, as fodder. Cotton is plucked by the hand, and stored or disposed of as required.

Wheat and barley are threshed in July and August in the usual primitive way, only with horses instead of oxen, as in the interior.

The garden produces peaches, apricots, nectarines (?), pomegranate, oranges, apples, almond, cherry, melons, cabbage, brocoli or cauliflower, onions of all sorts, lettuce, cucumber, spinach, potatoes, in fact, any sorts, in great profusion, water being supplied from a well.

The stock required for a farm of this size was: horses 12, ploughing oxen 60, buffaloes 20, milch cows, heifers, &c., about 100. There were no sheep on this farm, but near Karatash the owner had a fine flock, many of the ewes of which had lamb twice a-year, but this is unusual. Rams afford about 1½ okes of wool the fleece, and sheep about half that quantity. The oxen are kept for ploughing only, buffaloes for ploughing and draught, and horses for riding and as pack animals, cows to supply milk for farm purposes.

The following Table gives some idea of the yield of the various crops:—

Nature of Crop.	Quantity sown per Dönum.	When sown.	Reaped.	Yield.	
				Very Good.	Very Bad.
Cotton	4 okes	March 1 to 15 ..	September ..	60 to 1*	10 to 1
	3 „	„ 15 to 30 ..			
	2½ „	April			
Barley { Vakut ..	6 „	October and November	May 20 ..	25 to 1	10 to 1
Divrak †			April 20 ..	25 to 1	15 to 1
Sesame	100 drams to 1½ okes‡	April and May	August ..	100 to 1	30 to 1
Wheat	6 to 7½ okes	September and October ..	May 20 *et seq.* ..	30 to 1	10 to 1
Millet	1 oke	March 20	July	100 to 1	25 to 1
Oats	6 okes	October	May 20 ..	50 to 1	20 to 15 to 1

* *i.e.*, 12½ okes cotton, 30 okes seed, 17½ okes husk. † Divrak, or Egyptian barley. ‡ 1 oke = 400 drams.

Labour.—Twenty-five permanent winter hands are engaged from October to April. They are lodged at the farm (men only), and found in everything, food and clothing, down to a pair of boots. Each man looks after six oxen, which he always keeps for his own use, and sleeps near. For these seven months each man receives from 400 to 450 piastres and a quantity of cotton, derived from the sowing of 7 batmans (about 7 dönums), and a measure of sesame (about 1 dönum) taken from the average produce. This gives the men an interest in the crops. They are allowed to take it in kind or an equivalent in money at the market value.

The regular summer hands are taken on from May to September; about twenty are required to attend to the beasts and conduct the summer ploughing. These men take no part in the harvest operations. Pay for the five months, 450 piastres, and all found.

As might be expected, the harvest operations require a great addition of labour, and the annual immigration from the east, from Mesopotamia, Kharput, &c., is enormous, from 40,000 to 50,000 arriving at Adana during April and May. Sometimes as many as 120 extra hands are required on this farm alone; they are hired weekly at Adana for 5½ days, at a varying rate of from 5 to 10 piastres a-day, with all found. Besides these, special men, who bring their own horses, are engaged to do the threshing, and they receive one-tenth of all they thresh, and food. The daily ration of food, consisting chiefly of good brown bread, is as follows, and seems ample:—

At 5 A.M. 1 loaf, about ¾ of a lb.
At 10 „ 1 „ and pilaff.
At 3 P.M. 1 „ and yaourt onions, &c.
At 7 „ 1 „ and soup or yaourt, and a loaf to eat during the night.

Special hands: Tchifji-bashi (head man), cook, and gardener.

Oxen work for about three hours a day, and require cotton-seed to eat. A man with three pairs of oxen will plough 5 dönums of ground which has been previously broken in a day; buffaloes work longer. For farming like this on a large scale, my informant places his expenses at from 40 to 50 piastres a dönum, and his receipts at from 90 piastres a dönum in a moderate year to 140 piastres in a good, so that for the 4,500 dönums under cultivation his profits for an average year would amount to £ T. 2,300.

The climate of the Adana Plain is mild and temperate during the winter, and it is very seldom that snow falls; the rainfall in winter, though ample, is not excessive, but owing to there being no roads, and the rivers flooding, travelling becomes, if not impossible, very unpleasant during January and February; in May it begins to get warm, and in July and August the heat is unbearable to a European, especially in the towns; on the plain the sea breeze affords a relief, and the regular inhabitants will have it that the heat is not oppressive and that the plain is healthy; all who can, however, escape from the towns, if it is only to the surrounding vineyards, and those who remain sleep on the roofs. Fever is very bad, especially on the eastern plain, and typhus and small-pox are generally to be heard of in Adana and Tarsus. Tarsus and Mersina are said to be more unhealthy than Adana; but really the whole question of the sanitary condition of the plain lies with the authorities; there is no reason why fevers should be prevalent if ordinary precautions were taken and improvements carried out. Were the rivers confined in their beds, and not allowed to overflow during the floods and form huge stagnant marshes; were trees such as the eucalyptus planted, to afford shade and shelter from the fierce rays of the sun; were the people forced to be more cleanly in their habits, and to pay a little attention to diet; were sanitary arrangements introduced in the large towns, and an efficient staff of doctors provided, Adana could be made healthy enough; 20 per cent. of the inhabitants, I should say, is a low estimate for those suffering from eye diseases; some say this comes from exposure to the dew at night during the heat of summer, but I think it is due to dirt and negligence, and the only wonder is the place is as healthy as it is. Even in the mountains, where there can be no excuse, at places like Hadjin, the inhabitants (Christians) contrive, by their filthy habits, to live in an atmosphere of fever.

The only portion of the Adana Plain where I have seen irrigation attempted (except for garden produce) is between Tarsus and Mersina, and here, I suspect, only to a limited extent. The River Cydnus could easily be made available for irrigating the portion around Tarsus, as there are falls within a mile of the town; but with the Seihoon and Jeihun, which have a very slight fall between the mountains and the sea, it would be more difficult, and the water would have to be pumped up. Water can always be found at a depth of from 12 to 18 feet below the surface, but the crops depend altogether upon the rainfall, which, fortunately, does not often fail. With irrigation a succession of crops could be obtained, but farming is still in its infancy, and there is no prospect of anything being attempted in that way at present.

This year the crops (wheat and barley) promise very well, and there has been abundant rain lately to start the cotton. Unfortunately there has been a tremendous outbreak of locusts near Mersina, the first time they have appeared on this plain for twenty-six years; and, although the Vali has been most energetic, and has done all in his power so far to destroy them, and has, I hope, succeeded in averting the evil for this year, I am afraid a serious calamity threatens for ensuing years.

The best portion of the Adana Plain lies between the Seihoon and Jeihan Rivers, and at least one-third of this is liable to being flooded, or is occupied by salt lakes towards the sea. As a rule, the marshes become overgrown with reeds and undergrowth, but in the neighbourhood of Karatash there is an immense district which, though flooded in winter, quickly drains, and affords good grazing ground for the numerous flocks which frequent it in spring. The waters from the Seihoon and Jeihan frequently unite in this part.

No doubt there is room for much improvement in the farming of the Adana Plain, but it must be remembered that it is, comparatively speaking, a new thing; not so long ago it was impossible to work a mile from a village on account of bands of robbers, who roamed the plain in broad daylight, and time and education are required to develop its full resources. The farmers are contented with their profits just now, and have little inducement to experimentalize, but this will come by-and-bye, when the value of land increases still more, and competition arises. The only thing at present which I think would pay is the introduction of a steam threshing and chaff-cutting machine combined. Farmers would gladly give one-fifth of the amount threshed to have this done for them. Reaping-machines have made their appearance, but I know of only two; steam-ploughs would have no chance, as the soil requires constant scratching rather than deep ploughing. It is difficult to say what might not be grown on such a soil and in such a climate, but with the present Government foreign capital will not be forthcoming, and from what I know of the people of this country, I should be the last to advise any speculation.

The eastern plain is much less cultivated, and therefore more unhealthy; like the Adana Plain, with the exception of a little scrub in places, there are no trees, not even fruit-trees. The Jeihan holds a tortuous course through the centre of the plain, with numerous tributaries from the Taurus on the north, and the Giaour Dagh east; the southern portion is badly watered. From the intense heat, and the distance the main river flows sluggishly through the burning plain, the water, always muddy, becomes quite hot in summer, and flies are such a serious nuisance that it is almost dangerous to attempt to cross the plain by day. I have already reported that right out in this plain, on the banks of the river, was the spot selected as the new home of the Noghai refugees from the Caucasus after the Crimean war, and of the later arrivals of Circassians and Tatars from Roumelia, and the sad result of the inhuman action of the Turkish Government in settling them there without proper supervision. There is, however, this to be said, that the Noghais are very bad livers, and will not, even now, after the lapse of twenty-three years, give themselves a chance; they still persist in eating millet, an article of food so repulsive that even my dog would not touch it, and it was impossible almost to force oneself to swallow a very small morsel; it is a sodden, clammy, and absolutely tasteless kind of cold pudding, without, as one would imagine, a particle of nutriment. This and tea, with pepper and salt, instead of milk and sugar, forms their staple food; and with exposure, hot water to drink, no medical advice or comforts, and that strange fanatical fatalism which makes a man lie down and die strongly developed, it is no wonder that of the many thousands who have settled there, and who ought by this time to have become thoroughly acclimatized and prosperous, scarcely a quarter remain. Those of the first arrivals who have survived are prosperous enough, and are even anxious that their friends left behind in the Caucasus should be induced to join them, but their numbers are still diminishing, and of the later arrivals from Roumelia already more than half are dead. But these occupy a very small portion of the plain. There are vast tracts of uncultivated land, visited in winter and spring by the Circassian horses from Azizieh, besides the numerous flocks of the various nomad tribes; 7,000 horses are said to have been there this year. All over the plain appear those strange artificial mounds at intervals, forming watch-towers and places of retreat presumably, while on natural rocky hills appear the ruins of ancient castles, notably Anavarza, Ihlan Kalessi, Tumlo Kalessi, and Toprak Kalessi. In the neighbourhood of Osmanieh, where there is a good supply of water, irrigation is carried on and rice is grown.

The plain to the east of the Giaour Dagh is even more unhealthy than either of the other two. There are more marshes; the sea-breeze is not so much felt, I imagine, on account of the screen interposed by the mountains, and in summer it is almost deserted.

As regards the mountains, the Taurus are well known as affording some of the grandest scenery in the world, deeply wooded with all sorts of trees and shrubs, oak, pine, cedar, &c., and the climate delightful. It affords a pleasant retreat in summer for the inhabitants of the plain, but the presence of a European is very rare. The

whereabouts of mineral wealth is well known, but owing to the difficulties of transport, the inability of the Turkish Government to develop its own resources, and the prohibitive arrangements for foreign enterprise and capital, none of the mines are now at work. About fourteen hours north of Adana, and four from the main branch of the Seihoon River, down which rafts of wood now come, and which could be easily made navigable for small launches and barges, if it is not already so, there is said to be a perfect nest of mines—copper, argent-auriferous lead beds, iron, with a vast coal-field in the centre, in the neighbourhood of Karsanti. In the Ak Dagh and the Kulek Boghaz there are also lead beds which have been worked. In Kizil Dagh there is also said to be lead. In the Post Mountains, Kozan Dagh, Bozoglan Dagh, and Yagda Dagh, the existence of lead and iron is said to be known to villagers, who are afraid to make the whereabouts known to Government. The iron is reported to be of excellent quality, and can be produced at 1½ piastres the oke. Swedish iron of similar quality costs 4½ piastres the oke, yet nearly all the iron is imported, as the natives can only produce it in rough ingots.

Coal exists at Ayas, Itchel, and Karsanti; that of the latter known to be excellent; the two first, so far as explored, would not seem to be of good quality.

Marble exists in the Es Habel Khaf Mountain, about one hour north of Tarsus, and if of good quality could be very easily got at; it is also found in other parts of the mountains. On a future occasion I hope to be able to visit many of the places I have mentioned, and ascertain more about the mines; at present I am only speaking from hearsay.

The great salt lakes on the Adana Plain produce an annual revenue of about £T. 5,000; the salt is of good quality, and the supply inexhaustible, but it is badly looked after and there is much theft.

The Giaour Dagh and the lesser hills are also rich in forests, and, no doubt, minerals, but less is known of them; forests everywhere suffer much from wanton destruction.

As regards public works, the only made road, as I have said, is that between Adana and Mersina, a thinly macadamized road, finished about six years ago, since which next to nothing has been done to it, and it is just falling into decay, so much so, that in winter, at any rate, the traffic (merchandize) is conveyed on camel-back, and it is with difficulty the light carriages convey passengers during the wet season; the annual rental amounts to over 1,000*l.* a-year, but this disappears in the usual unaccountable way, and there is a debt still owing. In Zia Pasha's time, earthen embankments rather than roads were commenced from Adana towards Missis and Karatash, but without metalling these are of little value, as in the dry season there is no difficulty in going anywhere over the plain; no culverts were made, and already large portions have been swept away by floods.

The Taurus offers an effectual block to wheeled traffic to the interior, nor is this likely soon to be overcome; the chief routes for traffic are from Mersina to Karamania, rocky, and impassable in winter; the Gulik Boghaz route, leading to Nigdeh and Kaisarieh, and which is seldom blocked by snow; a pass viâ Sis to Feke and Hadjin, not much used; one, viâ Andarin, to Gyuksun and the region north; and an easy pass over the Giaour Dagh at Bagtche, to Marash and the east, by which a considerable portion of the Elbostan traffic now reaches Alexandretta. There are also several other routes of less importance, practicable only in summer.

Of all these, the most important is the Gulik Boghaz (Pilæ Ciliciæ) route, and already some good work has been done in the pass itself; Abédine Pasha intends to push on the construction of a road from Tarsus in this direction this summer, and hopes to complete a practicable arabah road as far as Ak Kupru, five hours beyond the pass, the boundary of the vilayet, before next winter, but in this I think he will be disappointed, as there is some heavy work required; and, even if he does, the road will terminate in the heart of the mountains, and I fear there is little chance of the Konieh authorities doing anything to their portion, which for six or seven hours is very difficult; after Nigdeh is reached there are very few obstacles all the way to Kaisarieh, and a road in this direction would do much to open up the Konieh and Angora Provinces. Most of the traffic, however, is drawn from the plain itself, and it seems to me that, for exports, Karatash and Ayas Bay offer advantages as regards proximity to the sources of production, and I am not aware of any special reasons why Mersina may be considered the safer anchorage. Ayas Bay especially, although I am disappointed with its natural advantages, unless it becomes filled up by deposit from the Jeihan—and I think some soundings recently made by Her Majesty's

ship "Monarch" showed considerable alterations of late years on the southern side—is obviously the port for the eastern plain should it ever become well cultivated; and it might also receive a portion of the Marash-Elbostan traffic should it ever become of importance. Even now there is a little export done at both these places.

The Seihoon could easily be rendered navigable as far as Adana, even if it is not now so, for barges and small tugs. Much of the produce of adjacent villages between Adana and the sea now goes to Mersina by water, and wood is brought down the river in rafts for twelve hours above Adana. The construction of a light railway from Adana to Mersina would, or should, prove a paying thing.

There are good stone bridges over the Cydnus at Tarsus, over the Seihoon at Adana, and over the Jeihun at Missis, but three arches of the latter were destroyed by during the Turks' defeat by Ibrahim Pasha, and have only been replaced by wood. There are also lesser stone bridges over the northern tributaries of the Jeihan on the plain, and here and there rough wooden or stone bridges in the mountains.

There are Turkish and European telegraph clerks at Adana, Tarsus, and Mersina, and a local line to Sis. The wires lead to the interior viâ the Gulik Boghaz to Niggdeh and Konieh, and to Aleppo viâ Alexandretta and Antioch. The European staff is fairly efficient.

Adana is well served with posts. Two steamers, one up and the other down, belonging to the Messageries or Russian lines, arrive weekly at Mersina with mails; and there is, besides, the Turkish land post from Constantinople arriving viâ Konieh on Saturdays, and going on to Aleppo, and returning on Tuesdays. Quickest time from England, fourteen days.

With the exception of the cotton-ginning machines at Tarsus, Adana, and Yavzonat, worked in the case of Tarsus by water-power, and in the other two by steam, no special industries present themselves. Oil is extracted from sesame, tile-making, rough cotton and wool cloth for domestic use, a little carpet-making, sacking, drugget, raki manufacture from grapes or alcohol, potteries—all these are carried on in a primitive way; but among the exports scarcely anything appears which is not in the raw material.

With foreign Consular Representatives of all nations at Adana, Tarsus, or Mersina, the proximity of Cyprus, an extensive sea-frontage, and frequent arrivals of steamers at Mersina, one would have expected to find some little advance and improvement in the system of government, but so far from this being the case, I doubt whether graver abuses, more universal corruption and peculation, exist anywhere in Anatolia to a greater extent than in the Province of Adana. So far from the Consular Representatives setting an example and having any influence with the Government for good, my impression is that they are themselves in many instances the ringleaders of intriguery, and one of the chief sources of the demoralization existing in all commercial transactions which is such a barrier to progress and foreign enterprise. Unsalaried, and surrounded by a set of equally unscrupulous dragomans, the sole object in holding either appointment being to protect the holder's own interests, with adverse commercial aims, and frequent squabbles amongst each other, and with only one object in life, to make money any way they can, it is scarcely to be wondered at that foreign influence is at a very low ebb.

The officials, whether Moslem or Christian, are, as a rule, corrupt and incapable, and so long as there is no hope of good men being rewarded and bad punished, this will continue. The feeling towards the Government among the lower classes is one of universal dislike, but in such a mixture, and with such ignorance prevailing, it is never likely to ripen into anything approaching organized resistance. The acquisition of Cyprus by the English seems to have created a general impression that the English are coming, and I am frequently asked whether this is the case, and hopes are expressed that it may be so; but this is no proof that a foreign occupation would be welcomed; on the contrary, the recent response of the Redifs, not from this province, where they have not been called out, but from the Kaisarieh district, which have lately been shipped at Mersina, would seem to show that the Porte has by no means lost its hold over its Mussulman subjects. The Armenians, who are found scattered over the country pursuing the calling of shop-keepers, pedlars, &c., are always discontented, and in the few country villages where they are found engaged in agriculture they are always full of exaggerated grievances and unfounded complaints. On one occasion, at a village I had visited more than once, and had always had to listen to their tales of woe, which it is almost unnecessary to say I found exaggerated, a special performance was got up for my benefit. During the night I was aroused by two

pistol-shots, and next morning, just outside on the roof of the adjoining house, I was shown a partially excavated hole, where the robbers had attempted to force an entrance, and had only decamped when fired at.

Courting oppression by the cringing attitude they assume, filthy in their habits, and extraordinary liars, these people are the most detestable class one meets.

Since 1869, when this vilayet was created, there have been no less than eleven Valis, besides Vékils during interregnums, and the same constant change is to be observed throughout the Administration, Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams rarely continuing in office more than a year or two.

This is much to be regretted, as, should a good Governor be appointed, as is sometimes the case, he is sure to be removed before his works are completed, and the chances are his successor undoes in a very short time all he has been attempting to do. For this reason, all improvements now are met with sullen opposition, being regarded as only a source of useless expense, and little likely to be of any permanent good; and if an energetic Vali succeeds in accomplishing any work, it is not till long after he has retired from the scene that the people are able to appreciate it. This, together with the necessary authority from Stamboul, which is required even in trivial matters, the independence of the Judicial Administration, the lack of co-operation and interest on the part of the local magistrates, and the knowledge that whatever he does is unlikely to secure his advancement, renders a Vali's position a very unenviable one, and it is little to be wondered at that so many are content to let things slide, and to make what they can while the sun shines. We are particularly fortunate just now in the appointment of Abédine Pasha as Vali, and, if he is allowed to remain, I hope will do a good deal. Already various improvements are in hand in Adana itself, and the energetic way he has lately attempted to destroy the locusts are good omens for his future administration.

As to the system of government, it is only necessary to make a most superficial inquiry into any Department to ascertain the unsatisfactory state of affairs. I have already reported on the administration of justice, and it will only be necessary now to observe that, since the arrival of the new Mufettish, there have been certain improvements, notably in the reorganization of the Courts in Adana, which, though creditable to the man, are little likely to restore confidence in their proceedings.

Inquiry into Finance.—Last year the tithes were collected by the Government; special employés were sent from Constantinople to superintend; the harvest was a very promising one, and, had they been sold, it would have amounted, I am assured, to £T. 110,000; as it is, though the accounts are not yet completed, I think I am outside the mark when I put the value of the collection at £T. 50,000; the expenses alone amounted to £T. 20,000, and most of the 600 and odd employés reaped golden harvests.

For the coming year Abédine Pasha has recommended that for the out-sandjaks the tithes shall be farmed to the villagers, which will be a popular arrangement; the Government to collect the tithes of the home sandjak, which, if his Highness supervises, may succeed. The harvest promises to be a very good one.

The income tax is very unfairly assessed in many instances, the rich escaping easily, while a poor man, who works for four months in the year, and perhaps earns 1,000 piastres, has to pay 30 piastres out of it to the Government; the land tax, though professing to be at the rate of 4 per 1,000 piastres, is really an indefinite charge, made according to interest; and, again, the large land-owners escape, while the small suffer. Thus a farm on the Adana Plain, owned by a Christian, and worth certainly £T. 7,000, pays a tax of 8*l.*, instead of 28*l.*; and an adjoining farm of 4,000 donums, and worth about 4,000*l.*, belonging to a Turk, pays only 130 piastres; the poor, on the contrary, complain of being over-taxed. The land, house and property, and income taxes all need a complete reassessment on equitable bases, and land should be revalued at stated intervals, say every five years. But it is the same all through. Take the indirect contributions: scarce any one outside of the larger towns smoke tobacco that has paid duty, and salt is stolen wholesale. Take the agricultural bank, established some fifteen years ago to assist the poor peasants, with a capital raised by an increase of 2 per cent. on the tithes: all the money is lent to the rich, while the poor man has to go to the merchant, who advances money on such terms that ruin is bound to ensue. Supposing a man requires a few pounds before harvest, he goes to one of these leeches, who gives him, perhaps, 800 piastres, and he signs a receipt for 1,000 piastres, payable in five months, being at the rate of 60 per cent., with other clauses which he does not understand or which are not read over to him; from this net he rarely escapes, and his small plot of ground is sold. Take the police:

they are still in the same unsatisfactory state, in rags, and unpaid for months; while the books are in such a confused state that they actually do not know the strength of the force, nor its distribution.

And yet, notwithstanding all this, the country is quiet and safe to travel over; one rarely hears of robberies with violence; murders, though not unknown, are rare; petty pilferings, cattle and horse stealing, much of which never comes to the ears of the authorities, as the people prefer to pay a ransom sooner than engage in useless litigation, go on, and are usually laid to the doors of the Persians on the plain at any rate; an occasional fracas at Tarsus between the Persians and the Afghans; but there are no organized bands of robbers such as disturbed the country in the past, and the streets of Adana, though crowded, are usually quiet and orderly.

Education is more than usually backward, so much so that it was with great difficulty Christian members for the Law Courts could be found possessing the simple qualification of being able to read and write Turkish. Abdine Pasha is taking some interest in the Moslem schools and improving their condition, while the Armenians and Greeks, stirred into action by the establishment of Protestant schools by the American missionaries, who during the last winter have been devoting special attention to this portion of their field, are showing signs of activity. Among the higher classes of Christians there is a growing feeling of the necessity of education, and many send their sons and daughters to the excellent schools at Beyrout.

The following Appendices are inclosed:—

1. Imports, 1871-80.
2. Exports, 1871-80.
3. Exports from Ayas and Karatash, 1880.
4. Navigation Return, 1871-80.
5. Population Return, Adana Vilayet.
6. Police Distribution,
7. List of Officials, Salaries, &c., Adana.
8. Wholesale and Market Price List.

(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET, *Lieutenant, R.E.*

April 28, 1881.

Appendix No. 1.

Port of Mersina.—Statement of Imports during the Years 1871–79-80.

Description of Goods.	1871.		1872.		1873.		1874.		1875.		1876.	
	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.
Coffee	582,000	750,000	883,000	1,150,000	593,500	1,429,200	144,525	401,070	621,750	1,740,900	340,000	937,500
Sugar	181,200	145,000			705,300	606,300	136,750	397,075	840,250	761,625	440,500	448,000
Rice	297,200	162,700	205,000	168,000	330,000	174,900	193,825	104,665	665,000	326,650	500,000	250,000
Pepper	16,660	22,000	22,000	24,000	28,125	37,968	5,625	8,593	75,375	101,755	60,000	120,000
Granulated metal	5,250	5,100	10,500	14,000	456,500	419,850	88,000	79,200	446,500	385,850	..	..
Cereals	32,100	10,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ironmongery	135,000	385,200	200,000	400,000	534,400	534,400	191,360	115,000	580,000	725,000	and granulated metal 1,160,000	1,160,500
Skins	185,200	155,600	194,000	170,000	124,500	385,950	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tobacco	170,800	290,000	175,000	295,000	269,750	809,250	136,500	180,000	204,800	700,000	570,000	1,150,000
Petroleum	43,620	83,300	43,200	26,000	502,120	247,680	655,805	274,944	1,004,550	439,000	375,000	230,000
Copper	11,500	72,200	21,000	26,000	46,500	234,000	185,000	925,000	147,000	735,000	135,000	680,000
Iron	139,000	64,000	139,500	65,000	320,250	283,225	..	..	..	..	..	..
Iron-work	160,200	165,200	161,000	166,500	..	..	117,250	284,040	and tin-tacks 743,550	445,550	and tin-tacks 710,000	400,000
Paper	600	800	700	900	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spirits	18,400	92,000	57,000	280,000	400,800	267,200	..	..	..	..	..	..
Soap	343,800	292,000	295,000	183,000	424,000	323,500	613,500	961,700	1,801,000	2,617,400	2,050,000	2,010,000
Packing-canvas	2,052,000	3,300,000	2,100,000	3,329,000	286,220	286,220	..	..	460,650	460,650	55,500	50,000
Fruit	183,100	90,200	188,000	93,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	and carob-beans 43,000	8,000
Provisions	65,000	18,700	57,500	19,500	620,600	66,900	571,200	81,200	1,025,750	51,300	and figs 610,000	120,000
Dates	37,500	42,000	58,000	49,000	..	..	79,050	32,000	80,500	21,000	70,000	22,000
Coal	5,500	5,500	6,000	6,100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glass-ware	2,000	2,500	3,000	3,700	..	..	37,500	22,500	15,200	4,000	25,000	2,800
Sundries	365,000	223,300	399,100	625,000	1,125,500	327,100	1,059,220	235,000	1,394,000	1,297,000	1,210,000	118,000
Bullion	..	4,805,000	..	1,900,000	..	3,930,000	..	2,618,170	..	3,084,400	..	3,850,000
Manufactures	2,050,700	2,065,000	2,100,000	2,165,000	1,362,500	1,825,000	745,950	495,000	1,511,500	1,835,000	420,000	1,500,000
Nails	..	..	22,000	45,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Flour	..	..	397,000	198,500	382,000	191,500	398,500	479,100	3,400	2,970	7,000	3,000
Machinery	..	..	..	..	16,700	225,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcohol	4,400	22,000	39,040	156,000	73,500	73,500	261,000	15,030	121,500	120,000	95,000	182,000
Wheat	..	..	..	..	1,262,500	265,125	1,263,750	613,275	..	..	..	..
Barley	..	..	..	..	..	..	291,250	50,625	..	..	..	..
Tinctorics	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,000	4,150	..	..	..	..
Cotton	..	..	..	..	..	..	62,700	62,700	..	..	..	..
Skins, tanned	..	..	..	..	..	..	99,750	302,225	240,040	744,000	180,000	540,000
Oil	..	..	..	..	..	..	26,200	33,500	15,500	10,500	32,000	54,000
Carob-beans	..	..	..	..	..	..	58,100	9,000	50,000	7,500	..	..

Description of Goods.	1877.		1878.		1879.		1880.		Remarks for 1880.
	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	
Coffee	134,000	550,000	427,000	1,066,000	450,000	910,000	529,000	1,104,000	From Marseilles.
Sugar	965,000	210,000	657,000	645,000	750,000	732,000	5,080,000	1,020,500	Ditto, and small quantity from Trieste.
Rice	459,000	255,000	262,500	122,800	960,000	405,000	1,200,000	535,000	Ditto, and small quantity from Genoa.
Pepper	80,000	160,000	60,500	120,000	59,000	115,000	280,000	550,000	From Marseilles.
Granulated metal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Goods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Haberdashery	and granulated metal 240,000	240,000	and granulated metal 1,268,000	280,000	and granulated metal 1,185,000	211,000	1,210,000	260,000	From different countries.
Skins	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tobacco	and Persian 47,000	152,000	and Persian 50,500	138,000	and Persian 62,000	141,500	20,500	210,000	From Turkey.
Petroleum	450,000	213,000	750,000	250,000	1,400,000	345,000	126,000	588,000	From different countries.
Copper	and tin and shot 409,000	500,000	tin and shot 350,000	410,000	tin and shot 400,000	422,000	..	..	..
Iron	..	..	and tin-tacks 862,000	480,000	and tin-tacks 850,000	470,500	1,210,000	1,250,000	From England and Trieste.
Iron-work	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paper	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spices	..	..	..	..	..	..	350,000	337,000	From Marseilles and Turkey.
Soap	325,000	450,000	385,000	400,000	658,000	658,000	2,250,000	2,210,000	From Turkey.
Packing-canvas	150,000	130,000	85,700	71,500	..	..	..	..	..
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Provisions	200,000	180,000	656,000	70,000	650,000	62,000	670,000	66,000	From different countries.
Dates	30,000	16,000	40,000	11,000	82,000	25,500	160,500	12,500	From Turkey.
Coal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glass-ware	25,000	3,000	22,500	2,000	56,000	5,500	147,000	15,500	From different countries.
Sundries	610,000	127,000	315,000	55,000	385,000	62,000	320,500	67,000	Ditto.
Indigo	..	2,500,000	..	3,145,000	..	4,150,500	310 packages	3,000,000	Ditto.
Manufactures	85,000	1,100,000	775,200	900,000	780,000	806,000	2,350,000	2,520,000	From England and France.
Nails	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,700,500	920,500	From Marseilles.
Flour	10,500	4,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machinery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcohol	80,000	140,000	115,000	135,000	520,000	330,000	..	..	..
Wheat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Barley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tin-tacks	145,500	193,000	..	..	160,000	147,500	81,500	97,000	From England.
Cotton	..	..	..	..	2,500,000	625,500	500,000	1,271,000	From Greece.
Spices, ground	35,000	155,000	131,000	510,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	87,000	Ditto.
Oil	20,000	25,000	25,000	26,000	..	..	..	..	..
Cards-home	20,000	4,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Appendix No. 2.

Ports of Messina, Silefkin, and Karatash.—Statement of Exports during the Years 1871-79-80.

[1877]

Description of Goods.	1871.		1872.		1873.		1874.		1875.		1876.	
	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.
Cereals	7,115,200	1,990,985	12,755,000	3,432,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,000,000	2,300,000
Sesame	3,474,250	1,816,100	2,065,000	965,000	1,588,700	791,330	1,314,125	657,062	3,063,500	765,900	7,500,000	3,368,000
Castor-oil seed	225,800	90,000	230,500	82,000	199,430	99,715	1,626,450	813,225	141,200	36,050	75,000	18,500
Cotton	3,743,750	5,935,000	1,217,500	6,326,000	6,815,359	8,519,437	2,692,650	3,233,033	9,940,500	2,940,500	6,075,000	7,593,000
Wool	1,696,500	1,543,000	1,780,000	1,780,000	216,200	2,376,220	770,875	847,962	440,250	440,250	900,000	900,000
Cotton-seed	725,000	137,000	510,000	71,500	2,710,300	149,066	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yellow berries	248,000	75,000	250,000	75,000	403,310	1,210,020	237,580	712,740	343,000	1,029,000	172,000	515,000
Madder-root	235,500	210,500	368,000	360,000	533,250	479,925	86,250	77,625	26,250	21,000	..	..
Gum tragacanth	140,000	775,000	150,000	780,000	244,320	957,731	216,480	844,272	221,720	1,149,400	149,000	575,000
Soap-wort	87,500	45,000	80,000	48,000	165,680	82,500	122,220	61,110	221,750	110,880	223,000	112,000
Carpets	27,000	135,250	28,000	142,000	20,250	195,000	20,250	112,500	19,530	108,500	20,000	110,000
Manufactures	21,000	8,420	21,500	9,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Skins	266,500	93,100	300,000	91,000	624,520	419,616	578,280	401,796	440,000	308,260	450,000	310,000
Wax	27,100	135,100	27,000	135,000	29,040	104,544	20,700	74,736	58,800	192,920	25,500	175,000
Silk	450	8,450	500	8,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rags	58,500	6,000	120,000	7,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Planks	88,500	248,500	..	11,000	19,477,650	779,105	29,197,000	865,900	and bark 19,250,000	743,500	and bark 19,000,000	750,000
Tobacco	5,000	500	600	1,050	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lentils	4,100	2,500	2,200	5,000	6,210	6,203	5,130	5,700	..	..	..	..
Fish	1,500	1,200	2,720	2,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Provisions	12,500	5,600	20,000	4,200	310,250	73,000	159,950	28,000	..	..	530,000	260,000
Resin	25,500	4,000	36,000	14,000	21,500	2,940	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oats	..	11,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gum-juniper	600	2,200	1,500	1,300	1,700	2,465	1,700	2,465	7,200	10,080	..	..
Sundries	80,000	14,500	52,500	17,000	308,310	85,650	492,660	107,800	3,566,000	1,140,000	3,000,000	1,010,000
Wheat	..	..	..	..	12,579,040	2,641,724	2,392,320	949,214	11,500,000	2,090,000	..	..
Barley	..	..	..	..	2,079,750	375,165	7,262,000	1,039,300			..	..
Maize	..	..	..	..	..	..	708,500	113,360	2,120,000	297,680	..	..
Linseed	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,270	320,250	3,010	2,100	..	..
Cocoons and opium	..	..	..	..	..	..	800	5,200	..	..	..	..
Lead	..	..	..	..	..	..	697,000	418,700	858,000	685,000	1,980,000	700,000
Bullion	..	1,597,500	..	1,515,000	..	2,983,000	..	1,201,262	..	2,900,000	..	2,400,000
Rice	..	..	..	..	..	..	500,680	31,000	..	..	..	..
Cocoons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	300	2,000	..	..
Leeches and provisions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	360,750	223,000	..	..
Apricot kernels	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Valonea	..	..	..	..	1,100,000	165,000	1,510,000	275,000	1,100,000	200,000	1,000,000	120,000
Pine-bark	..	..	..	..	..	..	215,000	6,500	..	..	..	..
Poppy-seed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Aniseed and caraway	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Raisins	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Opium	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pursuey	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Liquorice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Description of Goods.	1877.		1878.		1879.		1880.		Remarks for 1879.
	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	Weight in kilogrammes.	Value in francs.	
Cereals	12,600,000	2,550,000	6,125,000	1,225,000	..	..	27,000,000	5,400,000	
Sesame	3,135,000	1,380,000	3,410,000	1,705,000	1,580,000	1,050,000	3,300,000	1,100,000	The greater part for Smyrna and Constantinople; a little for Europe.
Castor-oil seed	160,560	80,000	250,000	120,000	282,500	158,800	400,000	160,000	For Italy.
Cotton	3,600,300	3,600,000	4,320,000	480,000	2,700,000	3,245,000	1,920,000	1,440,000	For Smyrna and Marseilles.
Wool	300,000	300,000	600,000	510,000	720,000	576,000	850,000	850,000	For Marseilles.
Cotton-seed	1,510,000	30,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Yellow berries	37,500	100,000	480,000	1,344,000	379,060	1,070,000	350,000	980,500	For Smyrna and Marseilles.
Madder-root	25,000	25,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Gum tragacanth	2,500	13,000	175,000	870,000	182,000	680,500	200,000	97,000	For Italy and Marseilles.
Sesamoïde	112,000	35,000	100,000	42,000	202,000	205,700	115,500	100,800	Ditto.
Carpets	8,000	40,000	15,000	77,000	21,000	25,000	30,000	20,300	For Turkey.
Manufactures	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Skins	168,000	336,000	150,000	810,000	388,000	805,000	450,000	820,000	For Marseilles.
Wax	40,000	160,800	28,500	114,500	31,500	95,000	25,000	84,000	For Europe.
Silk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Rags	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Planks	and bark 12,000,000	400,000	and bark 11,700,000	340,000	and bark 11,840,000	350,000	..	..	For Cyprus, Port Said, and Egypt.
Tobacco	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Leeches	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Provisions	200,000	150,000	230,000	115,000	132,000	52,000	110,000	48,000	
Fruits	..	..	..	..	..	..	Dried fig 650,000	250,000	
Oxen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Gum-juniper	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Sundries	480,000	500,000	480,000	50,000	510,000	48,000	13,250,000	3,132,100	
Wheat	..	..	..	..	26,150,000	6,052,000	..	..	Quarter for Europe, remainder Turkey.
Barley	..	..	..	..	9,750,000	1,267,500	..	..	Small portion for Marseilles, remainder for Turkey.
Maize	138,000	22,500	150,000	36,000	72,000	9,500	90,000	11,800	For England.
Linseed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Canary-seed and opium	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Lead	550,000	360,000	630,000	328,000	21,250	7,000	42,000	32,000	For Constantinople, for military service.
Bullion	..	2,100,000	..	4,814,000	..	2,800,000	720 packages	Unknown	
Bones	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Cocoons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Leeches and provisions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Apricot kernels	..	..	280,000	265,000	119,700	120,500	..	..	For Marseilles.
Valonia	550,000	160,000	850,000	135,000	728,000	184,000	800,000	200,000	For Syra, Chio, Italy, and England.
Pine bark	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Poppy-seed	..	..	..	..	29,000	11,500	10,000	3,900	For Marseilles.
Aniseed and caraway	..	..	..	..	17,000	8,200	12,000	4,360	Ditto.
Raisins	..	..	..	..	704,900	220,000	..	..	Ditto.
Opium	..	..	..	..	6,000	240,500	..	..	For Turkey.
Furriery	..	..	..	..	65,200	155,500	..	..	For Marseilles.
Liquorice	..	..	..	..	62,000	3,200	..	..	For Smyrna.

Appendix No. 3.

Port of Ayas.—Statement of Exports from July 1, 1880, to March 31, 1881.

Wheat.	Barley.	Millet.	Sesame.	Sesame.	Remarks.
Kilo of Constantinople.	Kilo of Constantinople.	Kilo of Constantinople.	Kilo of Constantinople.	Oleo.	
32,000	..	8,200	1,800	..	Destined for Europe.
6,800	8,200	2,400	..	..	Destined for Alexandretta.
7,200	1,000	6,400	..	..	Destined for Morea.
8,000	3,600	..	..	..	Destined for Beyrout.
53,600	12,800	12,000	1,800	..	

Port of Kuradash.—Exports, 1880.

50,000	70,000	2,000	..	700,000

Wheat for Europe, Syria, and Smyrna.
Barley for Crete, Syria, Smyrna, and Europe.
Millet and sesame for Marseilles.

N.B.—The Constantinople kilo is equal to 1 bushel.

Appendix No. 4.

Ports of Mersina, Silefkia, and Karatash.—Navigation Return, 1871–80.

Nations	1871.				1872.				1873.				1874.				1875.			
	Merchant Ships.	Tonnage.	Steamers.	Tonnage.	Merchant Ships.	Tonnage.	Steamers.	Tonnage.	Merchant Ships.	Tonnage.	Steamers.	Tonnage.	Merchant Ships.	Tonnage.	Steamers.	Tonnage.	Merchant Ships.	Tonnage.	Steamers.	Tonnage.
Turkish	1	600	2	61,500	3	702	33	51,726	2	231	33	49,000	1	276	33	58,368	4	560	34	57,000
English	1	1,000	10	9,000	11	3,065	16	13,222	5	2,570	21	16,224	2	1,510	23	15,655	4	1,153	10	11,370
Austrian	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	325	33	52,032	1	75	33	58,932	4	700	33	34,200
Italian	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	4,973	1	1,010	11	2,853	—	—	13	2,353	1	911
Russian	—	—	—	—	10	2,000	—	—	16	4,337	—	—	2	1,179	—	—	12	3,003	—	—
French	1	1,750	1	1,750	10	3,749	—	—	10	1,580	—	—	1	1,179	—	—	1,150	23,100	36	15,980
Greek	442	23,040	48	1,760	555	32,240	9	4,570	759	19,534	2	1,393	1,424	28,513	33	27,370	—	—	—	—
Ottoman	—	—	—	16,500	—	—	—	—	—	1,770	—	—	—	525	—	—	—	—	—	—
Egyptian	—	—	—	1,100	—	—	—	415	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spanish	—	—	—	1,000	—	—	—	—	1	231	—	—	—	561	—	—	2	600	—	—
American	—	—	—	—	3	1,031	—	—	1	263	—	—	1	1,047	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swedish	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	254	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Danish	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prussian	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	610	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	315	—	—
Roumanian	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	316	—	—	1	55	—	—	—	—	—	—
Consulage of Jerusalem under French protec.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spanish	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swedish	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Danish	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	464	27,090	173	109,100	596	45,253	133	100,597	837	41,410	137	107,772	1,057	58,300	165	156,245	1,202	10,881	134	167,761

Nations	1876.				1877.				1878.				1879.				1880. Port of Mersina.			
	Merchant Ships.	Tonnage.	Steamers.	Tonnage.	Merchant Ships.	Tonnage.	Steamers.	Tonnage.	Merchant Ships.	Tonnage.	Steamers.	Tonnage.	Merchant Ships.	Tonnage.	Steamers.	Tonnage.	Merchant Ships.	Tonnage.	Steamers.	Tonnage.
Turkish	1	296	64	54,000	—	—	—	—	1	183	32	54,750	2	246	32	45,712	—	—	45	76,705
English	3	1,140	50	10,250	2	360	21	15,840	—	—	32	54,750	—	—	32	54,750	—	—	40	72,240
Austrian	—	—	48	56,700	1	199	32	20,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	211	48	58,100
Italian	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1,042	32	54,625	4	1,077	1	516	—	—	—	—
Russian	14	4,340	—	—	11	2,240	—	—	10	3,515	1	260	—	—	—	—	1	250	—	—
Austrian	11	6,371	—	—	11	3,502	—	—	12	3,220	—	—	5	2,005	—	—	—	377	—	—
French	20	6,371	—	—	21	5,326	—	—	20	3,220	—	—	15	2,005	1	450	38	5,415	1	450
Greek	98	45,240	1	3,600	94	15,500	1	3,270	569	33,225	1	3,270	660	27,503	—	—	592	12,253	—	—
Ottoman	161	14,350	4	3,600	166	18,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Egyptian	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spanish	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swedish	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Roumanian	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Consulage of Jerusalem under French protec.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	569	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spanish	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1,566	—	—	—	—	1	416	—	—
Swedish	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Danish	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	314	80,308	167	140,150	515	99,102	135	109,492	617	21,487	111	125,600	751	87,016	128	100,104	632	19,145	134	165,080

Note.—Most of the Ottoman ships are lighters navigating the Adana River and the coast.

Appendix No. 5.

Return of the Male Population of the Adana Vilayet for 1881.

Sanjaks	Moslems.					Armenians.					Greeks.					Catholics.					Protestants.					Grand Total.
	Former Nos. 1879–80.	Since Died or Emigrated.	Results.	Births or New Arrivals.	Actual Nos.	Former Nos. 1879–80.	Since Died or Emigrated.	Results.	Births or New Arrivals.	Actual Nos.	Former Nos. 1879–80.	Since Died or Emigrated.	Results.	Births or New Arrivals.	Actual Nos.	Former Nos. 1879–80.	Since Died or Emigrated.	Results.	Births or New Arrivals.	Actual Nos.	Former Nos. 1879–80.	Since Died or Emigrated.	Results.	Births or New Arrivals.	Actual Nos.	
Adana	56,135	1,327	54,810	1,736	56,546	1,004	72	3,933	57	3,990	865	43	822	30	852	310	24	286	12	298	211	35	176	17	193	61,575
Itchil	15,129	17	15,112	707	15,745	19	—	19	—	19	661	17	617	37	654	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16,118
Kozan	29,933	32	29,913	2,161	31,774	6,794	56	6,675	185	6,860	601	24	587	23	610	31	7	23	—	23	231	11	221	112	332	32,921
Jebel-Bereket	19,697	1,401	18,029	1,181	19,510	2,755	182	2,568	174	2,742	83	4	79	1	79	61	13	34	1	32	151	6	123	37	283	22,346
Total	144,313	3,777	140,779	5,315	146,375	13,572	315	13,196	414	13,629	2,213	109	2,104	91	2,195	405	45	360	10	373	596	53	543	171	711	163,186

Appendix No. 6.

Distribution of the Police Force in the Adana Vilayet.

Sandjak.	Officers.	Infantry.	Cavalry.	Total.
Adana, battalion	19	112	150	281
Kozan, ditto	8	74	63	145
Jebel-Bereket, ditto ..	11	128	111	250
Itebel, ditto	6	66	58	130
Total	44	380	382	806

The strength should be 950, but it is very doubtful whether the 806 accounted for above really exist.

Appendix No. 7.

Statement of the Government Officials of Adana, with Salaries.

Vali (Governor-General), 17,000 piastres per month; travelling allowance, 30,000 piastres per annum.

	Piastres per month.
Mektoudjee (Secretary)	3,000*
Office—	
Muneïr (Head)	1,000*
Ditto (Assistant)	1,000*
Twelve Clerks (combined salaries) ..	3,295*
"Evrak" (Archives) Office—	
Mudir	900*
Seven Clerks	1,480*
Treasury—	
"Defterdar" (Treasurer)	5,000*
Office—	
Muneïz	1,000*
Cashier	750*
Eleven Clerks	4,799*
"Emluk" Office—	
Muneïz	2,000†
Chief Clerk	750†
Five Clerks	1,087½†
(N.B.—The lira at 100 piastres.)	
"Defter-hakani" (Land Office)—	
Memour	750
Chief Clerk	380
One Clerk	190
"Vacouf" Office—	
Eveaf Mouhassébedjee (Manager) ..	1,500
Clerk	400
Messenger	80
Forests Department—	
Inspector	1,200
Memour	460
Clerk	480
Printing Office—	
Mudir	684*
Assistant	130*
Six Clerks (paid from receipts).	
Tithe Administration—	
Nazir	3,500
Mudir	1,750
Ten Clerks	5,630
Postal Telegraph Office—	
Mudir	956
Clerk for international service	760
Four Clerks	1,615
One Messenger	142
Eight "Tchaouch's" (Surveyors of lines) ..	2,278
Drogoman	1,068*

* 5 per cent. reduction, November 1879.

Idari Medjlis—
President—
The Vali.
Ex officio members—
Cadi.
Mufti.
Defterdar.
Mektoudjee.
Defter-hakani Memour.
Eveaf Mouhassébedjee.
Three Christian Members.
Three Moslem Members.
Religious bodies (four): Protestant, Catholic, Greek, Armenian.

	Piastres per month.
Chief Clerk	1,440
Second Clerk	612
Three Messengers	303

Education Commission—
President, Cadi.
Vice President, Mektoudjee.
Eight Members, all Moslem.
Clerk.

Agricultural Commission (nominal)—
President.
Three Christian and three Moslem Members.
Clerk.

Agricultural Bank (Menafi Sanduk)—
Two Christian and two Moslem Members.
Clerk.

Municipality—	
President (Christian)	1,200
Seven Moslem and four Christian Members.	
Clerk	500
Cashier	450
Two Contract Clerks	650
One Market Inspector	400
Two Assistants	500
Architect	500
Veterinary Surgeon	4,000
Doctor	250
Head Fireman	2,400
Twenty-four Firemen and Scavengers ..	1,050
Seven Dustmen (Carterers)	460
Head Night Watchman	340
Assistant ditto	8,800
Fifty-nine Night Watchmen	210
Messenger	

(N.B.—Turkish pound at 123 piastres.)

† 2½ per cent. reduction, September 1880.

	Piastres per month.
Prison—	
Head Warder	190
Three Warders	411
"Rousoumat" (Indirect Taxes)—	
Mudir	1,080
Clerk	360
Cashier	360
Eight Patrol Officers	1,250
Three Mentours for tobacco factories ..	810
Three Assistants for ditto	405
One Head Patrol Officer	200
One Weigher	200

Courts of Justice.

Court of First Instance ("Mukémey Bidaet")—
Civil Division—

President	3,000
One Moslem and one Christian Member (each)	400*
One Assistant Member (Christian) ..	300*
Two Clerks	540
One Messenger	45

Criminal Division—

President	2,000
One Moslem and one Christian Member (each)	400*
One Assistant Member (Moslem) ..	300*
Two Clerks	540
Chief Clerk for both Divisions ..	540
One Messenger	45

Court of Appeal ("Mukémey Istinaf")—
Civil Division—

President	3,650†
One Moslem and one Christian Member (each)	750
Two unpaid Members (Moslem and Christian).	
Assistant Member	300*
Two Clerks	540

Criminal Division—

President	3,000
One Moslem and one Christian Member (each)	750
Two unpaid Members (Christian and Moslem).	
Assistant Member	300*
Two Clerks	540
Accountant for both branches ..	360
Chief Clerk for both branches ..	900
Four Cavasses for both branches ..	580

Commercial Court ("Mukémey Tidjaret")—

President	3,000
One Moslem and one Christian Member (each)	500
Four unpaid Members (one Moslem and three Christian).	
Chief Clerk	900
Assistant Clerk	350
Drogoman	475
Two Cavasses	445

Court of the "Sheri"—
President, Cadi.
"Editma Muduri" and one Assistant.
Five Clerks.

Mufti.
Clerk to ditto.

Inspector of Justice ("Adlié Mufétish") ..	7,500
Procureur-Général	3,000
Sub-Procureur-Général	1,300
"Idjra Memura" (Executive official) ..	600
Clerk	145
"Mukayelat Mudurii" (Registrar of Fees, &c.), from fees	800
"Mektebi Rushdié" (Government School)—	
Head Schoolmaster	472
Second ditto	248
Teacher of Caligraphy	80
Messenger	68
Hospital—	
Mudir	300

Appendix No. 8.

Wholesale Prices at Adana, April 1881.

Alcohol, 6½ piastres the oke.
Barley (white), 10 piastres the Constantinople kilé.
Cotton (raw), 7½ to 8½ piastres the oke.
Cotton-seed, 15 to 16 paras the oke.
Coolinseed, 65 to 70 piastres the oke.
Coffee, 12 piastres the oke.
Copper, 17 to 18 piastres the oke.
Copper, 26 to 28 piastres the oke.
Datea, 2 piastres the oke.
Figs, 1½ piastres the oke.
Hides (native), 8 to 10 piastres the oke.
Iron (English), 2 to 2½ piastres the oke.
Iron (Swedish), 3 piastres the oke.
Lead, 5½ piastres the oke.
Leather (varnished), 500 to 600 piastres the dozen hides.
Leather (native), 21 piastres the oke.
Leather (foreign), 600 to 800 piastres the dozen hides.
Manchester goods, 6 to 7 piastres the lb. ("mechlor").
Millet, 12 to 13 piastres the Constantinople kilé.
Nails, 3½ piastres the oke.
Oranges, 14 piastres per 100.
Pepper, 7 piastres the oke.
Petroleum, 60 piastres the case.
Rice (Genoa), 3½ piastres the oke.
Rice (English), 2½ piastres the oke.
Soap, 6½ piastres the oke.
Salt, 20 to 30 paras the oke.
Sesame, 40 piastres the Constantinople kilé.
Sesame, 5 piastres the oke.
Skins (sheep), 9 to 10 piastres each.
Skins (goats'), 14 to 16 piastres each.
Sugar, 6½ piastres the oke.
Tobacco, 34 to 50 piastres the oke.
Wheat (of the province), 23 piastres the Constantinople kilé.
Wheat (white, of the interior), 27 piastres the Constantinople kilé.
Wheat (hard, of the interior), 40 piastres the Constantinople kilé.
Wool, 5 piastres the oke.
Mohair (of Angora), 24 to 28 piastres the oke.
Linseed, 30 to 31 piastres the Constantinople kilé.
Peas, 44 to 45 piastres the Constantinople kilé.
Lentils, 40 to 41 piastres the Constantinople kilé.
Wax, 17 to 18 piastres the Constantinople kilé.
Raisins (of the province), 2 piastres the Constantinople kilé.
Nuts (Caramania), 18 to 19 piastres the 1,000.
Wine (Cyprus) 2½ to 3½ piastres the oke.

* 10 per cent. reduction.

† 2½ per cent. reduction, September 1880.

Market Prices at Adana, April 1881.

Barley, 112 piastres the Kaisaun kilé.
Bread, 1 to 2 piastres the oke.
Butter, 12 to 14 piastres the oke.
Charcoal, 1½ to 2 piastres the batman.
Coffee (raw), 15 piastres the oke.
Eggs, 1 piastre for 7.
Figs and dates, 2½ to 3 piastres the oke.
Flour, 1½ to 5 piastres the oke.
Fowls, 3½ to 7 piastres each.
Lemons, 30 paras each.
Meat (goat and mutton), 4 piastres the oke.
Meat (beef), 2½ to 3 piastres the oke.
Milk, 2½ to 3½ piastres the oke.
Oil (petroleum), 62 piastres the case.
Onions, 1 piastre the oke.
Oranges, 15 to 20 paras each.
Pepper, 12 to 13 piastres the oke.
Potatoes, 2 to 3 piastres the oke.
Rakí, 6, 8, and 16 piastres the oke.
Rice, 3½ piastres the oke.
Chaff (Saman), 10 piastres the horse-load.
Salt, 3 piastres the batman.
Soap, 8 to 10 piastres the oke.
Sugar, 7½ piastres the oke.
Tobacco, 40 to 60 piastres the oke.
Wine, 4½ to 6 piastres the oke.
Wood, 8 to 12 piastres the horse-load.
Suet, 7 to 8 piastres the oke.
Pasterme (jerked meat), 11 to 12 piastres the oke.
Cheese (inferior), 3 to 4 piastres the oke.
Cattle, horses, &c.—
Cows, 100 to 500 piastres each.
Oxen (draught), 300 to 1,000 piastres each.
Buffaloes (draught), 500 to 2,000 piastres each.
Bulls, 500 to 800 piastres each.
Sheep, 60 to 100 piastres each.
Goats, 60 to 100 piastres each.
Horses (pack), 800 to 1,500 piastres each.
Horses (riding), 800 to 1,000 piastres each.
Mules, 1,000 to 2,000 piastres each.
Asses, 100 to 800 piastres each.
Camels, 500 to 4,000 piastres each.

N.B.—The £ T. at 123 piastres; £ sterling at 135 piastres.

4 okes = 1 batman.
22 okes = 1 Constantinople kilé, or 1 bushel.
1 oke = 2¾ lbs. avoirdupois.

No. 110.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 403.)
Constantinople, May 20, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches addressed by Vice-Consul Clayton to Major Trotter, on the subject of the proceedings of Sheikh Obeidullah, and the departure from Van of the Adlié Mufettish and the Mouavin of that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 21.)
Van, April 20, 1881.

Sir,

THERE is still a good deal of uncertainty as to Sheikh Obeidullah's proceedings, although, as mentioned in my despatch No. 19 of the 12th instant, the Sheikh wrote expressing his submission to the will of the Sultan, yet immediately afterwards he sent fresh emissaries round to summon the Kurds to his standard, and, in spite of the pledges exacted by the Government from the Kurdish Chiefs that they will not join him, there seems to be some inclination on their part to do so. Some of them have been heard to say that the Sheikh is greater than the Government, and if he were to order them to come they would go, and others have hinted that though they would not go themselves they would not prevent their men from doing so. At the same time information that I have received from Bashkala indicates that the Sheikh has as yet very few men with him, and although trying to raise the tribes yet is not without apprehension, and is preparing for flight should it become necessary.

On the whole, it seems pretty evident that the Sheikh is doing his best to collect a force for fresh hostilities, but that how far he will succeed is doubtful at present, and that upon the amount of success he has in this will depend his future action.

I learn that for some reason the Proclamation alluded to in my despatch No. 19 has not yet been published generally throughout the vilayet, although I was given to understand by the Vali that it was being so published.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 22.)
Van, April 20, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that Assim Bey, the Adlié Mufettish, left Van the day before yesterday for Trebizond, viâ Tiflis, having been transferred to a similar position at Trebizond. I have not yet heard of any successor to him here having been appointed. Muggerditch Agathon Effendi, the Mouavin, an Armenian, left the same day for Constantinople, viâ Erzeroum, having been summoned to the capital by telegram from the Grand Vizier, it is not known for what purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 111.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 387.)
Foreign Office, May 26, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 348 of the 3rd instant, relative to the proceedings of the Mutessarif of Bayazid, especially in regard to his treatment of the agent of the Famine Committee, and I entirely approve the renewed representations which your Excellency made to Assim Pasha in favour of the dismissal of that functionary and of the Vali of Diarbekir.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 112.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 395.)
Foreign Office, May 28, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE received Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 370 of the 10th instant, inclosing a copy of one from Captain Everett reporting the steps he took in consequence of the arrest of the person who had been sent by him to the Bayazid Sandjak to examine the condition of the inhabitants prior to distributing relief to them; and I have to instruct you to convey to Captain Everett my approval of his proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 113.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 400.)
Foreign Office, May 31, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE received Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 399 of the 19th instant, inclosing copy of a despatch in which Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Damascus reports the peaceful termination of the differences between the Druses and the Hauranese, and forwards copies of a letter addressed to him on behalf of the Druses, and of his reply.

I have to state to you that I concur in the view taken by Mr. Goschen that Mr. Jago was right in refusing to interfere in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 114.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, June 6.*)

(No. 11.)
Erzeroum, May 11, 1881.

Sir,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 9 of the 5th instant, I beg to inform you that the instructions of the Vali to the officials of the Bayazid Sandjak consisted in the formation of Committees in the various Cazas, leaving very little power either of examination or distribution in my hands. The Committee was therefore obliged to refuse them. In doing so we made counter-proposals to the Vali, and informed him that while we greatly desired the support and aid of his officials, the examination and distribution must remain in our hands. Knowing also that he objected strongly to our taking receipts from the people, we observed to him that, the sowing season being past, we should give out to them freely.

In order to ascertain the feelings of Her Majesty's Ambassador on the subject, I telegraphed to him as follows:—

"Have I your sanction to distribute in Bayazid districts without waiting for permission of Vali?"

On Sunday I received an answer from the Vali refusing altogether our proposals, and on the following day an answer to my telegram in the affirmative, but ordering me to proceed with caution.

In the face of the very decided refusal of the Vali, it appeared to me to be most incautious to proceed to Bayazid and commence a distribution; but it occurred to me that between the two proposals made by the Vali and by our Committee, both of which had been refused, a middle course satisfying all parties might be found. I accordingly called on the Vali again yesterday, and am glad to say arranged the affair with his Excellency in a manner which is perfectly satisfactory. It was finally agreed between us that Committees should be formed in each caza as suggested in his instructions, that these Committees should appoint examiners, and that I on my part should appoint other examiners, who will examine the villages in pairs, one from my side and one from the other. Should any dispute arise between them, it is to be settled by me. Finally, all distribution, whether in kind or in money, shall be made by me or by one of my delegates.

Although this formation of Committees will probably cause some little delay, it seemed very desirable to concede the point, since it shows the officials, by our openly working with them, that the work is one of pure charity, and not a distribution made for any political purpose, an idea which the Vali cannot disembarrass himself of. At the same time, I shall be able to keep a tight hold on the money, and see that it is expended in the proper place.

I accordingly start for Bayazid to-morrow, and have telegraphed to that effect to Her Majesty's Ambassador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 115.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 6.*)

(No. 426.)
Constantinople, May 30, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Everett to Major Trotter, inclosing a petition, in the name of the inhabitants of a Kurdish village in the Dersim district, expressing their wish to embrace Christianity.

Captain Everett appears to have shown proper caution in the reply which he returned to this petition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 115.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 10.)
Erzeroum, May 9, 1881.

Sir,

I BEG to forward you a communication from the Rev. R. Chambers, which includes a petition from a certain Khalil Tabiq Oglou, of the village of Karamanloo, near Erzingian, declaring that the desire of the village is to be able openly to profess Christianity, and requesting aid should persecution follow.

I have replied to Mr. Chambers, informing him that I would forward his letter to you, but that until I received instructions I could not offer either to him or to the Kurds the slightest encouragement. I further commended him for having dissuaded Khalil from making a petition, and I asked him, if possible, to obtain for me privately further information which might substantiate the truth of Khalil's statement that more than 21,000 families thought and wished as he did.

I understand from Mr. Chambers that the tribe mentioned is that inhabiting the region known as the Dersim, lately erected into a separate vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 115.

The Rev. R. Chambers to Captain Everett.

Dear Captain Everett,
Erzeroum, May 2, 1881.

BELOW I give you the translation of a petition from Karamanloo, a Kurdish village near Erzingian. It is signed by Khalil, the Headman of the village, a very intelligent and determined-looking fellow.

During my recent visit to Erzingian I met with this man. Having listened to the story of the cruel death of the founder of Christianity, and having been told that to become Christian, instead of insuring protection might on the other hand entail upon him and his people still greater sufferings than they at present complained of, and perhaps provoke a general massacre, he, after some thought, replied, "We wish to become Christian, though it involves us in martyrdom. Give me leave to circulate a petition to this effect among all our tribe, for there are more than 21,000 houses who think and wish as my village does." I, however, dissuaded him from such a step, promising that I would report the circumstance to you with a view to securing, if possible, some pledge of protection from the British Government to such as might be in danger of persecution on account of a change of their religion. Be kind enough to do what you can for these needy villagers, who have lost all faith in Mahommedanism, have no schools, and number none among them, as Khalil informed me, who can either read or write.

The following is their petition:—

"To the Erzeroum American Missionaries,

"Our Sirs,

"Though there certainly is light in the world, your servants are dwelling in darkness. Our entreaty is this: the forty Kurdish houses of our village know that the way preached by our Lord Jesus is right, and we have accepted it in our inward hearts, but we fear that if it be known, the Sultan, hearing this, will take from us more than our just quota of soldiers, and will cause us great persecution. In place of one soldier he will take ten, and perhaps, having seized our possessions, will drive us from our village.

"Our request of the revered missionaries is this: that if we become Christian according to the way shown by you, you may protect us when we manifest our change, and that, like other Christians, we may be freed from the necessity of furnishing soldiers. We shall pay our taxes according to law as other subjects do, if freed from furnishing soldiers. If our request can be allowed, make haste to give us some message and open in our village a school, and send us a preacher, and one of the missionaries to dwell near us.

"Your servant,
(Signed) "KHALIL TABIQ OGLOU, *Karamánloo.*"

Earnestly hoping that through the good offices of your Government we may be able to do something for the evangelization of these men, I remain, &c.,

(Signed) R. CHAMBERS.

No. 116.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 128.)

Constantinople, May 30, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying copies of despatches received from Vice-Consul Bennet, reporting on the condition of the districts of Marash and Hadjin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 116.

Lieutenant Bennet to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 10.)

Marash, May 11, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I arrived here on the 9th instant from Adana. I travelled by way of Sis, Anavarza, Kars, Ajemli, and over the junction of the Ginour Dagh and Taurus, a very difficult route. Your Excellency will remember the Ajemli business, how the Armenians, driven from their village by persecutions during the late Russo-Turkish war, found their homes occupied by Circassian refugees when they wished to return. The case was taken up by Sir H. Layard, and I was able to inform you last November (No. 9 of 1880) that the Circassians had been removed elsewhere. Before leaving they destroyed the church and all the wattle houses, but left the only stone house untouched. Fifteen families of Christians have already come back and more are expected, they have suffered much pecuniary loss; and have now very few oxen to till the ground, still they have managed to sow a few plots. The villagers assert that the Government claimed from them and received the land tax for the time the place was occupied by the Circassians, a gross injustice, of course. They state the zaptiehs ill-used them and they were forced to pay it.

On my arrival here I hear of a serious robbery just committed on the lower road to Adana viâ Bagtche and Missis. Mr. Montgomery, an American missionary long resident in this country and much respected by every one who knows him, was proceeding from Marash to Adana to rejoin his family after the annual missionary meeting at Aintab. He was accompanied by his servant, a young American gentleman who has been out here for a few months, a Protestant pastor, one zaptieh, and a kartiger (driver). About an hour this side of Bagtche, thirteen hours from here, the party were accosted by seven Circassians, who appeared friendly. Seizing a favourable opportunity, they drew their revolvers and demanded their property; taken unawares, there was nothing for it but to submit, and in half-an-hour the rascals had ransacked everything, and departed with all the horses of value and anything they could make any use of, down to the very boots they wore; the value in all was about 150*l*. At the conclusion, the chief told Mr. Montgomery (who by the way is the United States' Consul at Marash) that he was Ismail Bey, and he might tell the Vali of Adana he had met him, and sent many insulting messages. Another of them was Kadri Bey. Zaptiehs appear to know these men, and to recognize them from their description, so that it would seem that they really have no fear of the Government. I have done all in my power to get the Mutessarif here to act energetically, but what he has done amounts to very little, for the fact is there are hardly any zaptiehs available anywhere, and as an instance I may mention that I have had to go without an escort more than once. It is said that these men are the very people who were originally settled at Ajemli, and have since been sent to the Kozan Sandjak. I took upon myself to telegraph to Abédine Pasha, who will no doubt act energetically, but two days were wasted without anything much being done here, and I doubt whether the Government will now be successful in recovering anything. The Aleppo Vali has been communicated with, and three or four men sent out to try and learn which way the robbers have gone; this, and messages sent to a few Kaïmakams, &c., is all that has

been done. The robbery took place close to the boundary of the two vilayets, and this increases the difficulty of a capture.

There has been a fight between Circassians and Turks lately at Gyuksun, in this sandjak, and about seven men killed and several wounded. The Mutessarif has sent two companies of infantry there, and all is now reported quiet. The dispute was about the right to certain lands in that direction.

All is reported quiet at Zeitoun, but I shall write your Excellency more fully next mail on this head.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 116.

Lieutenant Bennet to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 11. Confidential.)

Marash, May 11, 1881.

Sir,

SOME details of an interesting kind have recently come to my knowledge as to the state of affairs in Hadjin which your Excellency might like to hear.

Hadjin is a large village, of some 1,800 houses, in the heart of the Taurus, about twelve hours north of Sis, in the Adana Vilayet; the community is almost exclusively Armenian, Orthodox, Protestant, and Catholic, about 40 to 50 houses only being Moslem.

I visited the place last summer, and without exception it is the most disgustingly filthy town I have yet seen; the condition is indescribable, the only wonder is they do not have the plague.

Possessing many points of resemblance to Zeitoun, there is this difference, that the character of the inhabitants, so far as I have always heard and been able to observe, is essentially Armenian, *i.e.*, that they are always grumbling and exaggerating their woes, but, having no spirit, are not the least likely to do anything rash or offer the slightest organized resistance to the Government.

About the end of last year a new Kaïmakam was sent to Hadjin, Husni Bey, a man I have always heard well spoken of for his broad views with regard to Christians and general capacity—it were difficult to have found a better man perhaps. Unfortunately he was not very staid in his relations with women, and he had not been there very long before he formed a connection with one of the Armenian ladies of the place; the thing was perfectly regular, I believe, the woman went voluntarily to his rooms and was paid, but it got wind, and the feelings of the Armenians were terribly outraged that one of their nationality should cohabit with a Moslem. So there was a mixed council assembled, consisting of representatives from all the religious communities, Moslem included, and the woman was formally judged for her offence, and a sentence passed that she should be beaten with fifty lashes and led through the town on a donkey with her face towards its tail. A petition was also forwarded asking for the dismissal of the Kaïmakam on the grounds of his immorality. The former at any rate was an excessively irregular proceeding, of course. It is doubtful whether the sentence was executed, but I think the beating was inflicted, but that the ride did not take place.

I am not quite sure how events succeeded. I believe an officer was sent from Feke, about six hours off, where there is a battalion of infantry, to demand the withdrawal of the petition; on the inhabitants refusing to comply, it was announced that the Hadjinlis were on the eve of revolt, and a company of troops was sent.

The Turkish Government was not likely to be slow in availing itself of the opportunity offered by the petition; accordingly, in compliance with the wishes of the people, the Kaïmakam was dismissed and a new one appointed, a certain Bahri Bey, unknown to me, but known to the Consul-General, who speaks of him as "without exception the worst and most brutal Turkish official I know." Husni Bey was appointed Kaïmakam of Feke. This took place about a month ago.

Shortly afterwards I received a petition from the Hadjinlis, a French translation of which I inclose. Your Excellency will see that there is nothing very particular in it, and I merely sent an answer that I hoped to visit Hadjin during the summer, and in the meanwhile I should be glad to hear from them while at Marash.

Two days before I left Adana I received a letter from the Consul-General asking me to ascertain whether it was a fact, as he had seen stated in the papers, that Bahri

Bey had been appointed by Abédine Pasha as Kaïmakam of Hadjin, and requesting me to draw his Excellency's attention to the serious consequences which might occur by sending such a man, whose character he well knew, to such a place. Abédine Pasha came badly out of the business, beginning at first by sticking up for the man, who he said was better than any of the Mutessarifs of the vilayet; he finished, after a long interview, by hastily sending for me a few minutes after I left him to say that he had just seen some one from Hadjin who had told him that Bahri Bey did not like Hadjin, and that solely on this account he had decided to remove him immediately. This sudden change was doubtless brought about by his apprehension lest he should get into the bad books of the Consul-General. The temptation to pay out the Hadjinlis for their prudery was great, but I am surprised at Abédine Pasha yielding to it.

But the Hadjinlis have been behaving badly in another way. Either through ignorance of doing wrong, or a gradual innovation brought about by the impossibility of having matters dealt with by the authorities, the Orthodox Armenians have instituted a Court of their own, and, for the last two years, it now turns out, have been settling their own cases, civil and criminal; on my way here I was able to inquire into this at Sis, and I found it to be quite true; and I told some of the Hadjinlis that they had done very wrong, and advised them strongly to discontinue the practice; they seem now to be aware of the irregularity, and much frightened at the possible results; and there can be no doubt that the Government had reasonable grounds for proceeding against them.

Abédine Pasha asked me to do my best to convince them that they had been acting unconstitutionally, and on this account I am inclined to think he may look it over; he had sent the Mufettish to inquire into the affair, and I met him on his return at Sis, and it was evident he had formed an unfavourable impression, and that, up to the time of his visit, the illegal Council still continued its sittings; what the result will be I cannot say.

As regards the taxes, the Government is putting on the screw just now to collect the arrears; but I think this is due to pressure from the Porte, and has nothing to do with the present condition or attitude of the Hadjinlis.

There is some mistake about the 52,000 piastres; the sum taken out of the chest by Kozan Oglu is not to be paid again; but there are other arrears, and the people think that this 52,000 piastres has been included in the amount to be collected; the Government assures me it has not.

As to the troops, Abédine Pasha naturally takes the ground that he has a right to send troops where he chooses, that there is no cause for complaint, that change of air is good for the men, and he promised me they should not oppress the people; still, the rumour of a revolt has been spread, and the Hadjinlis will have to put up with their presence for a while. The troops are employed collecting the arrears; but I hear that at present only about 4,000 piastres out of 200,000 have been collected, the Hadjinlis saying they are too poor to pay; this will probably get them into further trouble, and I believe that some of the Mukhtars (heads of quarters) have been arrested.

This, then, is the present condition of things, and I cannot see that there is anything to be done in the matter at present; there is not the slightest fear, as I have said, of the Christians doing anything to bring about a collision between them and the troops, and the only thing is to watch the course of events.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

Inclosure 3 in No. 116.

Petition from Armenians of Hadjin.

(Traduction.)

LES habitants du district de Hadjin sont depuis quelque temps dans une situation politique de plus difficiles et imaginables. Si jusqu'ici ils n'ont point voulu vous adresser leur plainte sur ce sujet c'est uniquement de peur de vous importuner.

Cependant certains faits récents ayant augmenté leurs maux et aggravé leur situation, pour nous décharger de l'apparence condamnable résultant de notre insouciance, nous avons été obligé de prendre la liberté de vous présenter enfin notre plainte.

Nous avons eu, quelques mois avant, un Caïmacam, Husni Bey, dont l'administration et la politique étaient non seulement contraire aux intérêts mêmes du Gouvernement, mais encore sa vie et ses rapports avec les habitants étaient des plus immoraux et incompatibles avec la morale générale du pays, jusqu'à faire venir une Chrétienne chez lui publiquement au su de tout le monde. De là a résulté une antipathie générale des habitants contre le dit Caïmacam. On a été obligé de former un Conseil des chefs religieux, Turc, Arménien, Catholique et Protestant, et des notables laïques du district, pour apaiser le peuple et pour l'empêcher de toute démonstration. Après quoi ce même Conseil a rédigé un Rapport sur les faits et l'a remis au Medchémé pour être communiqué à notre Mutessarif de Sis, M. Reclad Bey; et la femme en question a été appelé et punie suivant l'usage et les règles de notre Eglise Chrétienne.

Sur ce, le Capitaine du régiment de Féké prenant la protection du Caïmacam, nous a insisté pour nous faire renoncer à cette plainte. A notre refus, il nous a quitté par des menaces et des injures, et s'en est retourné à Féké. Arrivé là il a envoyé en notre ville un bataillon sous le faux prétexte d'une rébellion à Hadjin; tel est, du moins, le bruit qu'il a fait courir. Nous n'avons jamais eu une pareille intention et l'armée n'a que faire en notre pays.

Le Capitaine est allé à Sis convaincre notre Mutessarif et à réussi à le gagner à sa cause. Il y a quelques semaines l'ordre de sa destitution est arrivé, notre Caïmacam se préparait à quitter notre ville, au moment même du chargement des bagages ses créanciers sont venus réclamer l'argent qu'ils lui avaient prêté pendant son séjour en notre ville. Lui, qui était venu sans un para à Hadjin, il l'a quitté à l'aide des soldats, avec huit malles d'effets acquis par notre argent. Quelques jours après est arrivé un Caïmacam provisoire, un nommé Bahri Bey.

Ce monsieur, nous ne savons pourquoi, c'est la fatalité, ajoutant foi à ce bruit de rébellion des Hadjinois répandu par le Capitaine, et aux insinuations malhonnêtes de quelques habitants malintentionnés, tâche de répandre des calomnies sur notre Tribunal et sur toute la ville, et de nous faire condamner comme coupables. Il permet aux soldats de faire tout, de maltraiter les habitants, de les battre, enfin de nous tyranniser.

Les pauvres habitants ne savent point la cause de ces mauvais traitements, et de peur d'être accusé d'une nouvelle rébellion n'en veulent même point demander la cause. Aujourd'hui même, Bahri Bey a écrit à Féké d'envoyer encore des soldats; il est même possible qu'il fasse un rapport défavorable à son Excellence Abédin Pacha, notre Gouverneur, et comme son Excellence le croira mieux que nous, les Hadjinois seraient vus d'un mauvais œil et peut-être même quelques-uns de nos notables seraient décrédités.

Par cet écrit nous n'avons point l'intention de nous plaindre mais bien de vous présenter notre situation actuelle, et vous prier de nous prendre sous votre protection à notre arrivée en notre ville, si jamais vous voulez bien nous faire cet honneur.

Nous vous prions de vouloir bien communiquer vos ordres à notre Représentant à Adana, M. Kévork Manguer Oglu.

Une autre question: Il y a deux ans, à son retour au pays, Kozan Oglu ayant repris en main le gouvernement du district, a pris de la caisse des impôts la somme de 52,000 piastres. Aujourd'hui on nous réclame de nouveau cette somme. Nous qui sommes déjà surchargés d'impôts, nous qui, dans le dernière rébellion de Kozan Oglu, avons rendu service à notre Gouvernement, nous redemander cette somme déjà payée. Ce n'est ni juste ni équitable.

Nous avons l'espoir de vous donner verbalement plus de détails encore sur ces questions à votre arrivée en notre ville, que nous espérons voir sous peu, si vous voulez bien accéder à nos vœux.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Le 5/18 Avril, 1881.

Inclosure 4 in No. 116.

Lieutenant Bennet to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 12.)

Marash, May 11, 1881.

Sir,

THERE is one thing I hardly thought it worth while mentioning to your Excellency, but come to think of it, if, by any chance, it comes to anything, it may possibly eventually become of very considerable importance.

I was chatting with Abédine Pasha one day, and he was laughing at the absurdity of a statement that had been made to him by a stranger, that a railway could be made

from Adana to Mersina for 5,000*l.*, whereas every one knew it would cost at least 100,000*l.* I remarked it was rather a low estimate certainly, but I should think it might be done for 20,000*l.* I spoke almost at random at the time, but I happened to have an illustrated price list by me, and we soon worked out that the cost of one of the narrow-gauge steel railways, 20 or 24 inches, which would be just the thing for this country, would not come to more than 30,000*l.*, everything included. To my surprise, no one had ever heard of these railways, and as I knew very little about them, I begged him not to be in a hurry, but to make full inquiries. Nothing would satisfy him but I must telegraph to England for estimates to be sent out at once for a 42-mile railway, such as I described, which I accordingly did, at his or the Government's expense, of course.

Although this all took place within three days of my leaving Adana, it was pretty widely talked about, and no wonder. The estimated cost of transport of goods alone to and from Adana, Tarsus, and Mersina amounted to over 15,000*l.* annually, so that it was evident that even under Turkish management it ought to prove a paying concern. As I was leaving I heard that the Pasha was talking about raising the capital this year by an additional 2 per cent. on the tithe, an iniquitous thing in any country but Turkey, where there is no confidence, Companies are not understood, and where merchants even would hesitate before taking such a bagatelle in their own hands.

If anything comes of it, and if Abidine Pasha continues at Adana I really think it may, this would possibly be the foundation of the Euphrates Valley Railway, and the establishment of Mersina as the port of this district. Once the railway is constructed to Adana, it should soon be pushed on over the plain to Missis, Yarzonat, and Osmanich, from which latter point it would immediately divert the whole of the Marash-Elbostan traffic from Scanderoon, and open up the plain tremendously. This is right in the direction of the easiest passage through the Giaour Dagh viâ Bagtche, which I remarked upon in my No. 12 of the 15th December, 1880. It would be curious if such a small beginning eventually decided this important question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 117.

Consul Billiatti to Mr. Goschen.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 6.)

(No. 27.) *Trebizond, May 10, 1881.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that last week the Porte transmitted to Yussuf Pasha, the Commissioner for Reforms in this vilayet, a document bearing about forty signatures of known leading Mussulman families in this town, and containing the following accusations against Sirri Pasha:—

1. That he is a corrupt functionary.

2. That he is so violent and irascible that no one dares to apply to him in case of need.

3. That for his own purposes he is exciting the inhabitants against each other.

4. That things had gone so far that unless he is dismissed from his post serious consequences would result.

The Porte appears to have been so alarmed that it had wired at once to Yussuf Pasha for information, instructing him at the same time to prevent, by promises to the leaders of the malcontents, that a fresh outbreak should add to the present difficulties of the Government.

It was lucky that Yussuf Pasha is a cautious and upright functionary, who, having himself been Vali in this province, is familiar with the intrigues of the place. Besides, there was not the least foundation for the complaints brought against the Vali nor for the supposed danger. An evident proof that the accusation is a party intrigue is that there is not the signature of a single Christian affixed to the document.

On Yussuf Pasha making inquiries, all the Mussulmans whose family names appear in the Memorial declared that they had no cognizance of the document, and that their individual seals were forged. A few admitted, however, to have wired and written against the Governor-General in a question concerning the appointment of a new Mufti, but that they had merely protested against the illegal proceedings of the

Vali in the matter and begged for his recall, he having lost the confidence of the population.

This was also stated to me by the leader of the opposition, who purposely called on me, but who so far admitted the incorruptibility of Sirri Pasha, and his not being dominated by his irritability of temper, that he (the leader) considers the author of the Memorial not to be a native of Trebizond, but some one having had in view to vilify the inhabitants of this town. It was similarly hinted to Yussuf Pasha that the Vali was his own slanderer.

With respect to the election of the Mufti, the Porte, who possesses all the details of the case, is in a position to judge how far is grounded the accusation. All I can say is, that a Christian official, who has a personal spite against Sirri Pasha, owned to me that his conduct in this case was unblamable. And I may add that, in the opinion of all respectable Mussulmans, and of Christians in general, the Mufti just appointed, Hamamdjioglou Hadji Ahmed Effendi, is the fittest person here to fill the post.

I must here explain that the question of the Mufti is a mere pretext. The real grievance against the Governor-General is his having caused Rushdi Pasha, the Mutessarif of Rizeh (reference to despatch No. 64 of the 27th December last), a native of this district, where he has numerous relatives and friends, to be tried under different serious heads of accusation concerning the discharge of his duties.

The inquiry into this complicated case, which has been carried on for the last two months, draws to its close, and seems to have fully established the culpability of Rushdi Pasha. His party is, therefore, very active in endeavouring to turn the scales against the Governor-General.

If the question concerning the Mufti be settled according to the wishes of the hostile party, but Sirri Pasha maintained in his post, other pretexts would be found against him to obtain his recall.

I do not think that I am mistaken in stating that what is now taking place has been, and, if not remedied, will continue to be, the usual practice of a few and the same individuals of this town with all Governors-General. But this is the first instance in which the intrigues have been brought to light, owing to the Memorial having been transmitted for investigation to Yussuf Pasha, who happens to be here.

As it appears from my official correspondence, I personally entertain the highest opinion for Sirri Pasha; this opinion is shared by all my colleagues. Yussuf Pasha speaks of him in similar terms, and has given to the Porte a most favourable report in the present instance.

The Greek Archbishop and the Armenian Bishop have signed a collective note in the same sense. The Ulemas, whose signatures were surreptitiously affixed to the forementioned Memorial, have likewise handed to Yussuf Pasha a declaration to the effect that the document was a forgery and its contents pure slanders. So did those of the leading Mussulmans whose names appeared in the same Memorial, and who are not hostile to Sirri Pasha. They were joined by a number of other notabilities. The promoters of the intrigue are easily detected, they having abstained from signing the protest.

The judicial authorities, though in antagonism with Sirri Pasha, have considered it their duty also to send in a protest against the false accusations of which he is the object, but this document was not signed by any of the native officials in the Courts of Justice.

It results from all this that, in the opinion of the majority, the general conduct of Sirri Pasha and his proceedings in the present instance are beyond reproach.

My object, however, is not to plead in his favour, but to clearly point out that, things being as I represent them, the attack of which he is the object is a struggle between native and other Ottoman officials, tending to weaken the power of the Porte in this vilayet, and to increase that of five or six ambitious natives.

There is no doubt that they will persist for some time to come in the line of conduct which they now follow, but as they and their adherents form the minority, the Porte need not be alarmed. Public tranquillity will not be disturbed if the Government show no weakness. But if they yield to the pressure exercised, or to ungrounded apprehensions, the post, which is already so difficult, of Governor-General at Trebizond will become untenable for any one, whoever he may be, and then serious troubles may arise.

So far as I understand the situation, I believe that even if Sirri Pasha's conduct had been such as to render his dismissal imperious, his recall at the present moment would be bad policy, likely to produce detrimental consequences for the Porte.

Yussuf Pasha entirely shares my view of the case, and his opinion has great weight, he having filled the post of Vali in this province just before the appointment of Sirri Pasha. I have had the honour at different times to call your Excellency's attention to the following points:—

1. That the Governors-General have to spend more time in counteracting intrigues than in administering this district.

2. That the intrigues are carried on by native officials and by local magnates who are connected with them by ties of blood or interest.

3. That there is a solidarity between those residing in the town of Trebizond and in the depending districts.

4. That whatever their private spites may be, they unite to strive against the Valis.

5. That the populations at large suffer from this state of things, but that the best-disposed Governors-General are powerless to protect them.

6. That no heed is taken by the Porte of the reports of the latter.

7. That undue attention is paid to the accusations brought against them by an interested minority.

8. That under these circumstances the authority of the Valis, which has been almost reduced to insignificance by the Porte, is daily encroached upon.

9. That this situation, if allowed to continue, will end by transferring real power in the hands of a few natives.

10. That the populations, which are already moaning under their oppression, will be entirely left at their mercy.

My observations, especially those contained in my despatch No. 64 of the 27th December last, are fully borne out by the incidents which form the subject of this despatch.

The unusual measure adopted by the Porte to send for investigation a copy of the Memorial against Sirri Pasha having brought to light the heinous character of the intrigue, the Porte should avail itself of the opportunity to make through Yussuf Pasha an inquiry into the case, and to give a wholesome example in this vilayet by punishing the slanderers.

The least that could be done would be to eliminate them and their adherents from the public employments which they now hold.

Should this measure appear inadequate, their removal for a time from this town would be certain to restore tranquillity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 118.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 6.)

(No 132.)
Constantinople, May 30, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Assistant Richards to Consul-General Wilson, reporting on the revenue of the Vilayet of Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 118.

Mr. Richards to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 7.)
Sivas, May 11, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you a few particulars with respect to the revenue of this vilayet, which I hope will prove of interest.

The chief source of revenue in this province, as in every other, are the tithe and the sheep tax, which, combined, generally furnish two-thirds, if not more, of the gross receipts from taxation. Besides these, there are the "emlak," a property tax, the "temettou," a quasi income tax, the "bedel askeri," a tax levied on the rayah male population as the price of exemption from military service, and a tax of 4 per cent. on

the rent of houses let to tenants. As there are many smaller imposts, I will give as complete a list as possible of all that have come under my notice, including those mentioned above, merely adding that in every province "adet," or local custom, influences largely the exactions of the tax-gatherer.

The following is a list of the chief imposts levied in this province:—

1. The tithe of all agricultural produce.

2. The "agnam" (sheep tax), being an impost of 3½ piastres per head of ordinary sheep or goat and 6 piastres for every Angora goat.

3. The "emlak," a tax of 4 per 1,000 on real property. It was raised, however, last year to 8 per 1,000 on all property in houses and lands valued at more than 20,000 piastres.

4. The "temetton," a tax of 3 per cent. levied, strictly speaking, on profits made in trade, as the meaning of the word implies, but in reality it corresponds, or nearly so, in its extent and incidence to our income tax. Under this tax common labourers pay from 35 to 45 piastres a-year, journeymen in regular trades from 80 to 180 piastres, and all other classes according to their reputed wealth. The only legal exemptions are clergy of all creeds, salaries paid out of charitable funds, and females; but in practice nearly all functionaries, high and low, manage to evade this tax, though they are, as a rule, the wealthiest persons in the district. This tax is in principle fair and equitable, but is very frequently oppressive, especially in the rural districts, from being assessed on too high a valuation, and from being also carried much too low in its incidence.

5. A tax of 4 per cent. on the rent of houses let to tenants.

This tax would form no inconsiderable source of revenue to the Government if it were regularly and impartially collected; but I understand that it is very commonly evaded, especially by those who could best afford to meet its requirements.

6. The "bedel askeri" (military ransom, as I stated above), a tax levied on the whole rayah male population as the price of exemption from military service, varying in amount according to the means of the tax-payer, but never less that 27 pias. 33 p. (nearly 5s.), and not unfrequently rising to as much as 100, 150, or even 200 piastres.

This tax is, on the whole, the one most universally and impartially levied, and is a considerable source of revenue to the State. It is sometimes bitterly complained of among Armenians with large families, but I have not the least doubt that such complainants, if offered a remission of the impost on the condition of instantly enrolling themselves in the Imperial army, would reject the proposition with scorn.

7. An impost levied on the owner of every camel, buffalo, ox, cow, sheep, goat, lamb, and kid, when killed at the public slaughter-house previous to sale to retail butchers:—

	Prs.	p.
For every camel or buffalo	3	0
„ ox or cow	2	0
„ sheep or goat	1	0
„ lamb or kid	0	20

8. A tax imposed on all goods newly imported into the chief town of every sandjak, when weighed at the public weighing-office, at the rate of 1 para per oke.

9. A duty of 20 paras per kilé (Sivas measurement, *i.e.*, seven times as much as the Constantinople kilé) of grain, officially weighed before sale is permissible.

10. A tax levied on all persons selling camels, mules, horses, and donkeys, at the rate of 1 para per piastre of price realized by sale.

11. An impost levied on owners of sheepfolds, at the rate of from 15 to 20 piastres each yearly.

12. A tax of 2½ per cent. on all vegetable, garden, and orchard produce, at approximate valuation.

13. A tax of 2 piastres yearly on every bee-hive.

14. A tax of 2 piastres yearly on every araba used for carting hay, grass, &c.

15. In Marsovan (Sandjak of Amasia) a tax of 10 per cent. is imposed on all timber cut in the neighbouring forests; an impost which last year brought the Government in as much as £ T. 10,000.

16. The inhabitants of this town also pay 37,750 piastres yearly for the use of the stream which flows past the town, water being scarce in that part of the country, and this particular stream Government property.

There are, I understand, several others of minor importance, but of which, as they vary in every caza and almost in every village, I have no accurate information.

Besides the above there are the Custom-house octroi dues, as follows:—

1. A duty of 20 piastres on every oke of tobacco.

2. A duty of 15 piastres on every oke of snuff.
3. A charge of 100 piastres for a licence to sell "tumbéki" (Persian tobacco).
4. A duty of 20 parus on every oke of salt.
5. A duty of 15 per cent. on wines and spirits; also a charge of 100 piastres for a licence to sell the same.
6. A stamp duty, varying considerably in amount, from 1 piastre per stamped paper used for the writing of petitions, upwards. But I believe a stamp duty of still smaller amount, viz., 2 paras, is paid on every copy of a newspaper printed in the country, native or foreign.

There are also duties on silk and fish, but as there is no manufacture of the former in this vilayet, except to a now very limited extent at Amasia, and as the latter is not, generally speaking, levied here, I am unable to obtain satisfactory information on either point.

The administration of the revenue obtained from the above-mentioned duties, viz., tobacco, salt, wine and spirits, stamps, silk and fish, is, as you, Sir, are aware, at present in the hands of a Company of bankers, headed by the Imperial Ottoman Bank, which is known as that of the Six Indirect Contributions. This Company has its representatives and agents throughout the country, of whom there are two at present at Sivas. One, a Mr. Weakly, of Angora, is the agent for the Sivas district, and is at present resident here; the other, a M. Joannaki, of Josgat, is the Controller of the whole district included in the Vilayets of Angora, Sivas, and part of Konieh. The latter is here only temporarily, being engaged in a tour of inspection. Both of these gentlemen have repeatedly assured me that the Imperial Government has been systematically robbed of at least two-thirds of the yearly revenue which should accrue from the dues above mentioned. More especially in the case of the salines, I am assured that officials whose business it is to superintend the sale of this Government monopoly have in the course of one or two years realized large (*i.e.*, comparatively speaking) fortunes by conniving at the theft of, and receiving large bribes for the illicit sale of, the produce of the salines under their charge.

In the case of tobacco, too, the Government has lost to an enormous extent. The contraband trade in this product has hardly any limits, and provides with means of subsistence, and, indeed, in some cases enriches, large sections of the population of every town. As everybody in the vilayet, from the Vali to the poorest hammel, has a considerable interest in their welfare, the smugglers have hitherto pursued their profitable occupation with complete impunity, and are only now beginning to realize that they are law-breakers, under the strict *régime* of the newly-appointed officials of the Six Indirect Contributions. That smuggling should be so rife is not a matter of surprise, when the heaviness of the tax is taken into consideration. The actual price of an oke of tobacco of average quality is 4 piastres; the Government tax is 20 piastres, five times as much as the article itself is worth. This tax, which by reason of its severity defeats its own end, would if diminished by one-half, be productive of a very considerable increase in the revenue. Tobacco smoking being an universal practice in this country, its habitués are deeply interested in the success of the contraband trade and in the general welfare of those who practise it, seeing that they can purchase their tobacco from the smugglers at 6 or 8 piastres the oke, whereas that sold by the Government costs them 26 or 28 piastres for the same amount. Until this tax is reduced the suppression of this illicit trade seems extremely problematical, although it must be confessed the trade is not carried on in the open and undisguised fashion nor with the same impunity that it was, even a few months ago.

As regards wine and spirits the loss to the Exchequer has not been so great, the opportunities they afford for a contraband traffic, being, perhaps, less available by the unscrupulous, but here again under careful supervision and with honest officials the revenue would be the gainer to a very considerable extent.

The revenue derived from three of the six Indirect Contributions for the last four months of December, January, February, and March, is as follows:—

	Pias.	p.
December 1880	15,657	20
January 1881	14,089	10
February	18,089	30
March	16,838	10

In this I have not included the revenue accruing from the sale of salt, which in the year 1879 amounted to £T. 22,000, and last year to £T. 25,000. [In both cases—gross revenue, for net revenue of last year, *vide* Table.]

I beg to inclose a Table giving in detail the revenue received from the above-

mentioned dues, also a statement in tabular form, showing the number of salines now in working order in the Sivas district. From this it will be seen that it is estimated by persons fully competent to judge, that the Turkish Government has hitherto lost annually nearly three-quarters of the revenue which should have been the outcome of this monopoly.

The revenue of the vilayet of Sivas for last year is as follows:—

	Piastres.
Sandjak of Sivas	9,144,743
" Amasia	3,820,877
" Tokat	3,702,081
" Karahissar	2,444,132
Total	19,111,833

As will be seen by a glance at the figures given in detail in the inclosed tabular statement, of this sum (19,111,833) as much as 18,326,612 piastres was contributed by the tithe and sheep tax, the former alone having realized the sum of 12,407,610 piastres.

In reality, however, these figures give no accurate idea of the productive power of the vilayet, nor of the wealth and resources of its inhabitants, and are only of interest as representing the sum actually encashed by the Imperial Government from this province. In order to form a clear conception of what is actually realized on the spot by taxation in any part of the Empire, the figures published by the Local Finance Department should be multiplied by at least two if not three; the surplus, I need hardly say, goes, in part, directly in the pockets of the tax-collectors, and is, in part, absorbed gradually while undergoing the process of transference from hand to hand, from sub-department to sub-department, until it finally reaches the Imperial Exchequer

As you, Sir, are doubtless aware, last year was the first occasion of the trial in this province of the oft-repeated and, except, I believe, in the vilayet of Trebizond, generally unsuccessful experiment of collecting the tithe directly by the agency of Government officials without the intervention of the "Multezims" (farmers of the revenue).

This fact lends additional interest to a study of the figures given above, and prompts the inquiry as to whether the Imperial Exchequer has been a gainer or a loser by this change of tactics. I find on inquiry that the tithe and sheep tax for the year 1879, were sold for the sum of 10,570,025 piastres. The amount realized last year was 18,326,612 piastres, but from this must be deducted, according to the official Return of the vilayet, firstly, a sum of 687,000 piastres expended in salaries to the Superintendent of the Department, the heads of Sub-Departments, and other minor functionaries; and secondly, a larger sum of 1,600,000 piastres, paid in wages to the host of petty officials known as "Shahanez", Muhurdjis" ("weighers" and "scalers") who are the actual collectors of the tax,—making a total of 2,287,000 piastres. On deducting this from 18,326,612 piastres, we get a clear revenue of 16,030,612 piastres, which, if compared with that of 1879, leaves a balance of rather more than £T. 5,000 in favour of the latter. This loss to the Treasury, though appreciable, is not so great as I expected, seeing that the harvest last year was decidedly below the average, while that of the year before was, I understand, above it. So that on the whole the experiment may be considered to have been, if not a brilliant success, yet certainly not a failure.

The arguments in favour of these two opposing systems are so well known that I need not refer to them, but I beg to suggest that the result of the experiment in this vilayet is, so far, favourable enough to warrant a second attempt this year.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 118.

A TABLE showing the Receipts from the Tithes collected in the Vilayet of Sivas, for the year 1880.

Sandjak.	Tithe collected in Money.	Various.	Various.	Tobacco.	Opium.	Khashkhash.	Walnuts.
	Piastres p.	Kilés cul.	Okes drs.	Okes drs.	Okes drs.	Kilés cul.	Kilés cul.†
Sivas	465,821 25	18 0	1,704 0	125 150	1,300	3 0	56 1½
Tokat	496,871 0	1,220 0	..	47,096 0	349 300	..	..
Amasia	295,976 0	1,782 0	..	..	991 0	..	..
Kara-hissar	232,804 0	8,666 0	450 0	..	2,388 0	..	31 0
Total	1,511,472 25	14,686 0	2,154 0	47,221 150	3,730 200	3 0	90 0½

	Lentils.	Kidney Beans.	Chickpeas.	Broad Beans.	Fennel.	Rice.	Velches.
	Kilés cul.	Kilés cul.	Kilés cul.	Kilés cul.	Kilés cul.	Kilés cul.	Kilés cul.
Sivas	352 0	97 1	127 0	66 0½	21 1½	..	4,554 0
Tokat	10 0	50 0	650 0	..	..	..	480 0
Amasia	7 1½	215 0	1,011 0	111 0	..	600 0	2,505 0
Kara-hissar	141 0	377 0	31 0	4 0	..	..	317 0
Total	510 1½	769 1	1,912 0	181 0½	21 1½	600 0	7,856 0

	Wheat.	Barley.	Maize.	Rye.	Linseed.	Oats.	Millet.
	Kilés cul.	Kilés cul.	Kilés cul.	Kilés cul.	Kilés cul.	Kilés cul.	Kilés cul.
Sivas	241,202 1	89,418 0½	11 1½	13,491 1½	728 1½	99 0	223 1
Tokat	37,888 1	37,472 0	10,868 1	..	..	2,450 1	250 0
Amasia	61,696 0	95,574 0	5,859 1	..	..	1,899 0	3,088 0
Kara-hissar	42,182 0	46,037 0	313 0	4,012 1½	..	..	495 0
Total	432,969 0	268,501 0½	17,092 1½	17,506 1½	728 1½	4,448 1	3,966 1

	Piastres p.
Total value realized by sale of the tithes levied in kind	10,986,138 0
Total value of tithes collected in money (*vide* Table)	1,511,472 25
Total	12,497,610 25

(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

A TABLE showing the Sources and Amount of the Revenue of the Vilayet of Sivas, for the year 1880.

Sandjak.	Tithes.	Shares of Taxes.	Four Chief Taxes.‡	Minor Imposts, Dues, &c.	Total.
	Piastres p.	Piastres p.	Piastres p.	Piastres p.	Piastres p.
Sivas	3,719,376 0	3,131,237 0	273,100 0	21,030 0	9,144,743 0
Tokat	2,687,349 0	4,014,952 0	..	..	3,702,081 0
Amasia	2,513,679 0	903,415 0	317,636 0	51,151 0	3,820,877 0
Kara-hissar	1,542,410 25	779,418 0	310,847 0	11,457 0	2,144,132 25
Total	12,497,610 25	5,829,092 0	701,583 0	83,638 0	19,111,833 25

N.B.—Tokat was elevated to the dignity of sandjak by Abédine Pasha rather more than a year ago, the present Mutessarif, Ra'ouf Bey, having held the position of Chief Secretary to the Commission of which the former was President. Although nominally it has ranked as a sandjak during the past year, yet, in reality, as far as its internal administration, judicial, executive, and fiscal, is concerned, it only took its place as such on the 1st (N.S. 13th) March this year. Hence the non-appearance in the above Table of any revenue from the four chief taxes, and other imposts and dues, which are only levied in the chief towns of every sandjak, as mentioned previously.

* This is the Constantinople kilé, the standard of measurement for grain and most dry goods throughout the Empire (equal to about 56 lbs. avoirdupois).
The Sivas kilé = 7 times the Constantinople kilé.
Tokat ,, = 8 ,, ,, ,,
Amasia ,, = 6 ,, ,, ,,
Kara-hissar ,, = 6 ,, ,, ,,
† 2 enlebeks (sometimes known as "toudlagh") = 1 kilé.
‡ By "four chief taxes," I mean the "Emlak," the "Temettu," the "Bedel Askeri," and the tax of 4 per cent. on the rent of houses let to tenants.

Receipts at the Sivas Custom-house for months of December, January, February, and March, 1880–1881.

Article taxed.	December.	January.	February.	March.	Total.
	Piastres p.	Piastres p.	Piastres p.	Piastres p.	Piastres p.
Tobacco, snuff, "tumbeki," &c. ..	6,472 0	6,902 20	1,275 0	4,850 0	22,499 20
Stamps	9,065 20	6,998 10	11,424 30	11,988 10	39,476 30
Wine and spirits	*	788 20	2,090 0	*	3,778 20
Totals	15,537 20	14,689 10	18,689 30	16,838 10	65,754 0

The revenue accruing from the fifteen salines situated in the Sivas district was—

	£T.
For the year 1879	22,000
,, 1880	25,000

A TABLE showing the Salines in the Sivas District, and the yearly output of each for 1880, with an authorized Estimate of what each should give.

Name of Saline.	No. of Hours Distance from Sivas.	No. of Okes.	Authorized Estimate of possible Output.	Remarks.
			Okes.	
1. Chakri	12	1,579,531	6,000,000	Was formerly central depôt; now at Sivas.
2. Djelcéd	11	468,668	1,500,000	
3. Eulhun	2	505,098	1,500,000	
4. Ilingil	2½	251,342	800,000	Has four tributaries, of which two are closed.
5. Khargoum ..	14	445,156	2,500,000	
6. Hamu	16	398,286	1,000,000	
7. Tauzhissar ..	6	128,133	400,000	Has two tributaries.
8. Tchikindi	1½	120,085	300,000	
9. Bedirlu	7	12,024	100,000	Will probably be transferred to Pallas.
10. Mardinlikui ..	4	31,981	250,000	
11. Fintzé	18	11,749	100,000	Four hours from Tokat.
12. Gyurgé	15	26,092	200,000	
13. Djeced	18	128,686	500,000	
14. Yéndjé	24	30,320	100,000	Has three tributaries, all closed.
15. Djelbli	8	35,719	100,000	Composed of seven small tributaries; five closed.
Totals	..	4,189,156	15,350,000	

An oke of salt is sold at the salines for 20 paras.

Therefore the revenue obtained from the above-mentioned salines amounted to 2,094,578 piastres.

What might and should have been realized 7,675,000 piastres.

Annual loss of revenue, therefore, based on these calculations, amounts to 5,580,422 piastres, or in round numbers nearly £T. 56,000.

As this monopoly has now passed into the hands of the Company of the Six Indirect Contributions, a thorough reform is now taking place throughout the country.

(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS, *Assistant.*

No. 119.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 130.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 31, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Goschen by the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, calling attention to the conduct of the Ottoman authorities with regard to the distribution of relief to the sufferers in Armenia.

I have communicated to Captain Everett the thanks expressed for his services in this matter by the Central Relief Committee at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

* I have been, unfortunately, unable to ascertain the area produced by the duty on wine and spirits for the months of December and March.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Monseigneur Nercès to Mr. Goschen.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Patriarcat Arménien, Constantinople, le $\frac{6}{18}$ Mai*, 1881

J'AI l'honneur de signaler à la haute attention de votre Excellence que suivant la teneur d'une lettre que le Comité Central de Secours aux Affamés d'Arménie, établi à Constantinople, m'a écrite en date d'hier, l'état de choses en Arménie relativement à la distribution des secours n'est pas trop satisfaisant que par le passé.

Sa lettre rapporte que les autorités de Van, de Kharput, de Moush et d'autres localités saisissent par force les billets que le Comité Central a envoyés dans ces localités pour être distribués par l'entremise des Sous-Comités, dans le but de ramasser les aumônes des particuliers; et parlant particulièrement des districts d'Alashgherd, de Karakilisse et de Bayazid, elle dit que des employés étant envoyés dernièrement par la Commission Internationale d'Erzéroum dans ces localités, chargés de dresser des listes des nécessiteux, sans distinction de culte, et de distribuer à ces malheureux du blé d'ensemencement, un d'entre eux a été arrêté par le Mutessarif de Bayazid dans la localité dite Diddin, et emprisonné à Alashgherd. Ce n'a été que par suite de l'intervention énergique de l'honorable Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique que le détenu a été délivré après avoir subi quelques semaines d'emprisonnement.

Le Comité Central exprime notamment ses remercîments pour les efforts humanitaires déployés par le susdit Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique que, voyant l'indifférence des autorités locales devant cette situation affligeante et les difficultés surmontées par elles dans la distribution des secours, a bien voulu se charger de cette tâche philanthropique et se rendre lui-même sur les lieux. Il a demandé à cet effet des Imirnamés aux autorités locales, mais que ces dernières voulant restreindre les limites des efforts de la Commission Internationale dans leurs mains n'ont pas voulu consentir à la part active que M. le Consul voulait prendre; il en est résulté que plusieurs Takvirs ont été échangés entre ces deux autorités sans aboutir à une fin définitive.

Il est donc pénible et désespérant de voir que tous les efforts bienveillants déployés jusqu'ici, soit par la Commission Internationale d'Erzéroum, soit par le Comité Central Arménien, échouent devant les difficultés surmontées par les autorités provinciales, lesquelles, loin de prêter la main-forte lorsqu'on en aura besoin pour activer les efforts, se plaisent à intervenir directement dans leurs affaires.

Sa lettre termine en exprimant que si l'état de choses continue à régner encore quelque temps, on doute fort de pouvoir arriver à temps pour distribuer les semences nécessaires, et il en résulterait que certaines localités, se privant de ces secours, préparaient une scène des plus douloureuses pour l'année prochaine.

En portant ces faits à la connaissance de votre Excellence je la prie, au nom de l'humanité, d'agir énergiquement auprès de qui de droit, afin de laisser libres les efforts philanthropiques de ces institutions, qui n'ont pour but que le soulagement des maux éprouvés par les pauvres affamés de ces contrées.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) NERCÈS, *Patriarche des Arméniens.*

P.S.—Les billets émis pour les affamés de l'Arménie, malgré qu'ils étaient mis en circulation depuis une année et demie, viennent d'être saisis de la part du Gouvernement sous prétexte d'être mis en circulation sans autorisation préalable. Quoique ces billets ne sont que des reçus pour des quêtes que la nation a l'usage de s'en servir depuis des siècles entiers pour ramasser l'aumône des charitables, et que nonobstant toutes mes instances et prières par Takvir, il m'a été refusé l'autorisation depuis un mois et demi.

NERCÈS.

No. 120.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Goschen.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, June 6.*)

(No. 29.) *Trebizond, May 21, 1881.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 58 of the 18th November last, I have the honour to report that about a fortnight ago another murder was perpetrated at Youmra by an unknown party. The victim is Ahmed Aga Kutchuk Ibrahimoglou,

not a bad man himself, but whose sons are the worst characters of the vilayet. On the news of his assassination spreading at Surmenah, where he had numerous connections, twenty-five or thirty armed men from that locality repaired at Youmra. Hadji Temel's partizans being suspected of the murder, and fearing that an attack was meditated on them, fled to this town. When the police force sent from Trebizond arrived at Youmra, the armed parties stated that they had merely proceeded there to take part in the funeral. But it is generally believed that further disturbances might have taken place without the timely arrival of the police.

Should Ahmed Aga's son, who is in prison for the murder he committed seven months ago, and the perpetrator of the late assassination, if discovered, be not severely punished, Youmra may be the scene of further bloodshed.

I avail myself of the opportunity to inform your Excellency that, as it has been the case since several years, there is little security for travellers in the villages between Youmra and Surmenah, and that, in spite of the endeavours of the Valis, no hope o a change for the better can be expected so long as the police force is not increased to an efficient number.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 121.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 9.*)

(No. 439.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June 2, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying copies of despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral, reporting on the locust plague and drought in the Angora district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 121.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 100.)

Sir, *Angora, May 14, 1881.*

I BEG to forward you the following details regarding the locust visitation, in addition to those of my despatch No. 99 dated the 7th May, 1881.

Since that date the Local Government has issued a Decree dividing the population into three classes, and demands from each individual ten, twenty, or thirty okes weight (27½ to 81½ lbs.) to be collected and handed over to the responsible officials, who weigh and give receipts. The people have responded very cheerfully, and in this way 102,000 okes, or 27½ tons weight, have been collected and destroyed during the past week. The well-to-do classes are of course glad to buy, so a regular market has been established at 10 paras per oke (½*d.* for 2¾ lbs.), and in this way about 100 tons weight more have been collected and destroyed.

It is calculated that each ton contains more than 90,000,000 half-grown insects, from which some idea of the magnitude of the plague may be formed.

The result is so far satisfactory that a visible impression has been made on the swarms near town, and the gatherers have to go every day further afield, but in the districts to the west and north there are countless myriads, and there the population is thin and scattered, and the Government more sluggish even than here.

The most determined enemy of the locusts, and that destroys greater numbers than man himself, is a species of a grey starling, which generally follows the locusts' swarm, killing them when flying by one stroke of the beak, and these birds have begun to make their appearance; it is just possible the worst consequences of the plague may be averted.

Even although this unfortunate province should be saved from being eaten up by locusts, it is still in great danger from drought. The time for spring rains has passed, and is passing, and the heavens remain like brass, the earth like iron.

Should both evils overtake us at the same time, our condition here will be pitiable in the extreme, and all the sufferings and horrors of the famine of 1873-74 will be

repeated on a larger scale. There seems to be some fatality prevents either the Local or Central Governments doing anything officially till too late, and the writer is overwhelmed with entreaties and requests to take action, and make a public appeal for funds to form depôts of grain as a reserve in case of actual starvation menacing a population of 1,500,000.

From my long residence here, and the influence I am supposed to have both with Government and people, it is urged, both by Consular colleagues and the notables of the various communities, that I ought to convene a meeting of Representatives, begin a local subscription, and appeal for contributions to friends in Turkey and Europe generally.

Before taking such a step I desire to be informed whether it would meet with the approval and concurrence of my official superiors.

I may be excused stating here that the Asia Minor Famine Fund of 1873–74, begun in this way, was instrumental in saving thousands of lives, and prevented many districts of the province from being altogether depopulated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 121.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 101.)
Sir, *Angora, May* 21, 1881.

I BEG to inform your Excellency, with reference to my preceding despatches Nos. 99 and 100, that the locust plague therein referred to has materially decreased since I last wrote.

The insects seem consumed by thirst, and crowd in millions to every running stream and river, where, of course, the majority are drowned, though some do make their escape. There are still, however, such vast numbers as would suffice to destroy every green thing; but we cherish a hope that the province may yet be saved, as by a miracle.

The fear of drought is at an end, thanks to late but abundant rains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 121.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 102.)
Sir, *Angora, May* 28, 1881.

I BEG to inform your Excellency that the news received from the neighbouring districts since I last reported is of a somewhat mixed character, but, on the whole, the news is less favourable, and indicates further loss and damage, in spite of the great efforts made to destroy the pest.

The large and important district of Sivri-hissar, regarding which great fears were entertained, reports that an energetic onslaught on the locusts by immense flocks of the grey starling has completely cleared the district for the present.

From the Istanos district, 20 miles to the westward, the intelligence, I regret to say, is of the most unfavourable description; a perfect avalanche of locusts has descended from the mountains on the fields, gardens, and vineyards, and they have consumed every green blade and leaf, leaving behind them a brown and barren desert. The poor inhabitants drive their flocks and herds further and further away every day for pasture, and every day they return more lean and hungry than before. All business is suspended, and shops and markets remain closed; streets, houses, furniture, bedding even, are covered with the loathsome insect; the fine river that flows through the town has become so polluted that neither man nor beast can drink of it.

The authorities continue their efforts to destroy the locusts by means of the forced labour of the inhabitants. Upwards of 200,000 okes, or 250 tons weight, have been so collected and buried in pits; but the use of quick lime having been neglected, the stench from these pits is something horrible, and threatens to breed a pestilence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 122.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 411.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 2, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Clayton to Major Trotter on the subject of the quartering of refugee Kurds from Persia on the villages in the Hakkiari district, and I venture to call your Lordship's attention to the opinion expressed by Captain Clayton in the last paragraph of this despatch as to the inexpediency of pressing the matter on the attention of the Porte until the latter is more disposed to appreciate the friendly intentions of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 122.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 23. Confidential.)
Sir, *Van, May* 3, 1881.

HAVING seen in the newspapers that a question has been asked in Parliament as to the quartering of refugee Kurds from Persia on the villages in Hakkiari, I have taken steps to obtain trustworthy information as to the extent to which this has taken place, and whether any allowance was made by the Government for their support. I will communicate this information to you as soon as I receive it. I would, however, venture to observe that I have good reason for believing that the Turkish Government is at present very suspicious of England, and anxious to keep the condition of the country a secret from the public ear of Europe, and that therefore it is possible that representations may only be met by denial, and tend to incense the Government against those who have brought their case to the notice of England. The Vali told me three days ago that he had seen the Nestorians who had complained of the conduct of the troops in Hakkiari, as related in the extracts from Mr. Wahl's letters, inclosed in my despatch No. 1, Political, of the 4th January, 1881, and that they had signed a paper saying that these complaints were groundless. His Excellency said that this was a proof how many false stories were told, and how impossible it was to believe the complaints made by the Christians. I have not the least doubt that these Nestorians were induced to sign the paper, if not by direct threats yet through fear of what might be the consequences to themselves if they refused, and I think it is very probable that the paper may be used to convince the Ambassador that there is no ground for the complaints that have been brought to his notice, and that I have been deceived. But I am confident that the stories told of the conduct of the troops and zaptiehs are substantially true, similar accounts reaching me from so many quarters. I moreover wrote to Mr. Wahl, warning him that it was possible the Nestorians might try to impose upon him and play upon his compassion by making out their case to be worse than it really was, and I have received an answer from him to the effect that, whatever the authorities might say, he knew the circumstances he had related to be true, and that, moreover, they formed but a very small part of the oppressions that had been inflicted on the unfortunate peasantry.

Therefore, I am obliged to say that I think that any denial the Turkish authorities may make is of absolutely no value; but, at the same time, I would, with the greatest deference, suggest that, unless a general scheme of reform were under consideration, it might be doubtful how far it would be desirable to press the matter on the attention of the Porte until a favourable change of circumstances should bring the Turkish Government to the disposition to appreciate better the friendly spirit prompting the advice given by England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 123.

Consul Henderson to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 10.)

Oriental Club, London, June 9, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Lister's despatch dated the 4th instant, which I received yesterday on my return to town, transmitting to me, for any observations I may have to offer on the subject, a Memorandum by Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia on the Catholicates of Sis and Etchmiadzin.

The question of the relative position of these two Catholicates is one to which I had the honour of drawing the attention of Her Majesty's Government in 1879. In my despatch No. 50 of that year, and in subsequent correspondence, I have gone into this question at length, and I propose, therefore, in this despatch to abstain from making any observations on the first or historical part of Colonel Wilson's Memorandum. The latter part of it is devoted to an exposition of the attributes of the Catholicos of Sis and the Patriarch of Constantinople, to the movement commenced in Cilicia in favour of submission to Etchmiadzin, the meeting called at Sis and the demands advanced by the Catholicos at Constantinople, their rejection by the so-called National Assembly, the alleged power of this body to dismiss the Catholicos, the general feeling of the Armenians in Lesser Armenia on the subject, and, lastly, the great importance to the whole Armenian Church of the solution of this question.

The principal attribute of the Catholici of Sis and Etchmiadzin, as stated by Colonel Wilson, is the consecration of Bishops, but besides, they alone can consecrate the holy oil or chrism. They have also the power to nominate and appoint bishops within their respective jurisdictions. In Turkey every recognized religious denomination has its Vekyl, or representative at Constantinople, with whom the Turkish Government corresponds, and no religious functionary of any standing is recognized in the provinces without the Berat of the Imperial Government.

It thus happens that though the Catholicos of Sis has the power to consecrate and nominate a Bishop, his recognition by the Local Government can only be obtained through the medium of the Patriarch of Constantinople, acting as the Vekyl of the Catholicos.

The Patriarch, on the other hand, may and has appointed and obtained the recognition of Bishops nominated by himself, but on their recognition by the local authorities in Cilicia they *ipso facto* become subject to the jurisdiction of the Catholicos of Sis.

A case is within my own recollection in which a Bishop consecrated at Etchmiadzin was appointed by the Patriarch of Constantinople to a See in Cilicia, and although he was recognized by the Local Government, he found his position quite untenable, and was obliged to resign. It is obvious that the continuance of such a state of affairs ought to cease, as, besides its impropriety, it deprives a large Armenian population of their spiritual head and of the recognized channel through which their complaints are brought to the cognizance of the Government. The Patriarch of Constantinople formerly had the right, on the death of the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin, to administer the ecclesiastical affairs of the Catholicate during its vacancy, provided his administration did not exceed a period of twelve months.

With reference to the movement commenced in favour of submission to Etchmiadzin, it was of a very unimportant character, and the signatures attached to the petitions were few in number, and even if authentic, were not such as would give either weight or importance to any document. Petitions were sent from Antioch, Aleppo, and Zeitoun, but the fact that they were severally dispatched from these places immediately after the visit of a Russian official might probably detract from their genuineness and spontaneity. It must also be remembered that in the Aleppo district alone there are some 80,000 Armenians, and any statements contained in a document signed by 50 or 100 of the less respectable of them can scarcely be regarded as worthy of serious consideration or as a veracious exposition of the general feeling. Indications also are not wanting to show that the Patriarch of Constantinople himself was not an inactive agent in inaugurating a movement which produced such barren results.

As regards the meeting called at Sis by the Catholicos in the legitimate exercise of the prerogatives appertaining to his high office, the reason which prevented many of the delegates from Aleppo being present was not the personal unpopularity of his Beatitude, but an interdict to the delegates from the then Governor-General forbidding their participation in it. The Governor-General professed his inability to comprehend

the reasons which prompted the Catholicos to call the meeting, but his Excellency's want of intelligence did not prevent him from denouncing the Assembly to the Porte as a political meeting called together for the dissemination of a revolutionary propaganda inimical to the Sultan's Government. This erroneous impression was conveyed to his Excellency by a Russian Armenian, and acting on the apocryphal information thus received, he actually obtained authority from the Porte to detain and send to Constantinople the Catholicos and the delegates. When Djevdet Pasha was made aware of the real scope of the meeting, these orders were rescinded, but it was then too late for the Aleppo delegates to take part in the proceedings.

The first and second demands formulated at the meeting seem to be quite within the limits of the powers enjoyed by the Catholicos of Sis from time immemorial; the third and fourth demands are mere matters of detail, which are not of primary importance. It may not, perhaps, be out of place to mention here that in the fourteenth century the two Catholicates of Sis and Etchmiadzin were for a time entirely separated owing to the refusal of the Armenians in Cilicia to accept the changes in their ritual and ceremonies decreed by the Synod of Drum, convened by Ohanes VI in 719.

I regret I have no documents or books of reference by me with which to refer for information regarding the so-called Constitution. The election of the present Catholicos of Sis took place in 1871. He was elected by a Synod composed of thirty-six Bishops and minor functionaries of the Diocese-General of Cilicia, and Commissioners from the Porte and the Patriarchate were, as usual, present at the election; and I cannot subscribe to Colonel Wilson's dictum, that the so-called National Assembly has the power to depose a Catholicos so elected. No precedent occurs to my mind at present where such a power has ever been claimed or exercised. The events which occurred subsequent to the death of Cyrnens III in support of such a pretension may be cited, but they would be quite irrelevant to the point at issue. It is certain that the authority of the Porte would be required for any such proceeding; and, although it is unfortunately true that the personal character of the present Catholicos leaves much to be desired, it would not be for the interests of the Porte to countenance any such attempt at present, when many of the Dioceses of Cicilia are vacant, and when, in consequence of the paucity of electors, the Patriarch of Constantinople would find it no difficult task to procure the election of a Catholicos of his own choice. It seems somewhat difficult to reconcile the statement that the so-called Constitution gives the Armenian people the right of electing their own Bishops by means of their Councils with the action of the Patriarch in arrogating to himself a right of appointing to the See of Cilicia Bishops of his own selection.

I am unaware how far the Porte recognized this Constitution, but it would certainly seem within its competence to more clearly define and, if necessary, modify the attributes of the Patriarch, an office which was, in fact, created by an Ottoman Sovereign.

Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople informed me that the substance of a despatch I addressed to it on this subject about six months ago had been communicated to the Porte, and that Assim Pasha was greatly impressed with the necessity of acting on my suggestions; and I have reason to know that the Turkish Government are anxious that the question should be settled in a sense favourable to the Catholicos of Sis, and, failing that, I believe it would not be unacceptable to the Porte if a schism was brought about in the Gregorian Armenian community similar to that existing in the Uniat Armenian Church caused by the rival claims of Hassoun and Kupelian. A suggestion has, however, recently been made that the Patriarchate of Constantinople might with advantage be abolished and the seat of the Catholicos of Sis transferred there, and that his spiritual jurisdiction should be extended so as to embrace all the Armenians in Turkey. In support of this suggestion the precedent of the Uniat Patriarch of Cilicia, who resided on Mount Lebanon, may be cited. On the promotion of Archbishop Hassoun to the Uniat Patriarchate, he transferred the seat of the Patriarchate to Constantinople, and so united the chief spiritual and civil authority in one person.

Could this suggestion be carried out, it would certainly be the one most advantageous to the Turkish Government, but in view of the opposition which Russia would probably make to it the Sultan's Government would, I should think, be unprepared to take so bold a step.

Colonel Wilson bears testimony to the feeling of both clergy and laity in favour of the independence of the Catholicate of Sis, and the great importance of this question to the whole Armenian Church. The political expediency to ourselves and

to the Turkish Government of supporting the demand cannot, I think, be questioned, and in view of the responsibilities imposed on us by the Anglo-Turkish Convention we could scarcely regard the settlement of the question in a light unfavourable to ourselves with indifference. Neither can we remain indifferent to the remarkable activity of late displayed by France in asserting and spreading her influence in the district affected by this question. At Aleppo, Aintab, Antioch, Gissar, and in the Taurus Mountains, building grants of 9,000 fr., and annual subsidies of 6,000 fr., are being given, I may say indiscriminately, for the establishment of French missions, the sole condition being that the French language alone is to be taught in the schools. A French Vice-Consul has been appointed at Adana, another at Antioch, and a third (M. Vigoureux) at Marash or Aintab, and the wealthiest and most influential "ayans" of those districts have been selected as honorary Dragomans of these missions and Vice-Consulates, which virtually removes them from Turkish jurisdiction.

The influence which France is thus acquiring in Lesser Armenia would seem to call for some action on our part similar to that existing in Syria by our protection of the Druses as a counterpoise to the protection of the Maronites by France.

Such an opportunity now presents itself to us, and it could be taken advantage of without in any way hurting the susceptibilities of France or Russia, by the restoration of the independence of the Catholicos of Sis by English mediation, and by the extension of such sympathy and support as we could properly give to the community thus more specially brought within the sphere of our influence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

P.S.—I herewith return Colonel Wilson's Memorandum.

P. H.

No. 124.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 428.)
Foreign Office, June 11, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE received from Mr. Plunkett a copy of Captain Everett's despatch to Major Trotter No. 10 of the 9th ultimo, inclosing a letter from the Rev. R. Chambers, accompanied by a petition from a certain Khalil Tabiq Oglon, of the village of Karamanloo, which declares that the desire of that village is to be able openly to embrace Christianity, and requests protection against any consequent persecution.

I have to inform your Excellency that I approve the nature of the reply which Captain Everett returned to this application, as reported in his despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 125.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 452.)
Therapia, June 7, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an interesting Memorandum by Mr. Preziosi respecting the Special Commission appointed by the Sultan for elaborating a scheme of reform in his Asiatic possessions.

I regret, however, to add that, as far as I can learn, nobody appears to anticipate any practical result from this Commission in its present shape.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 125.

Memorandum.

I HEARD from a trustworthy person that the Sultan has appointed a Special Commission with a view of preparing a scheme of reforms to be introduced in his Asiatic provinces.

The members of this Commission are: Saïd Pasha, Prime Minister; Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, Minister of the Interior; Server Pasha, President of the Council of State; Kiamil Pasha, Minister of Public Instruction; and Subhi Pasha, Minister of the Evkaf.

It would seem that the working of the Commission is almost stopped, on account, my informant says, of a difference of opinion which has arisen between Saïd and Mahmoud Nedim Pashas. The latter wishes the decentralization of powers; proposes that Christian Governors should be appointed in some provinces, with full authority and liberty of action; while the former advocates the centralization of powers, and insists upon limiting still more the authority of the Valis.

(Signed) R. PREZIOSI.

Therapia, June 6, 1881.

No. 126.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 459.)
Constantinople, June 8, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant Bennet, giving an account of the condition of the Sandjak of Marash.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 126.

Lieutenant Bennet to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 13.)
Marash, May 16, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that since my arrival here on the 9th instant I have been endeavouring to make myself acquainted with the state of this district by interviewing the several officials, religious Heads, and other leading persons, including American missionaries, whom I thought likely to afford me reliable information. I have tried to dismiss from my mind in prosecuting general inquiries the abnormal condition of affairs in which the country found itself two years ago, when the attention of Her Majesty's Government was specially called to it, and to ascertain as far as possible the present condition, and I have also made special inquiries as to how matters have gone at Zeitoun since the winter of 1879.

I am therefore at present only in a position to speak very generally, and I may say at once that my first impressions are unfavourable, not that I anticipate any serious trouble or calamity in the immediate future, but as an example of Turkish incapacity and misrule the Marash Sandjak seems to stand pre-eminent among the districts I have visited.

The population is said to consist of about 55,000 Moslem and 15,000 Christian males, and it is sub-divided into five cazas, viz.: Bayardjik (S), Marash, Albistan, Andarin and Zeitoun; of these Marash and Bazardjik contain some good plains for agriculture, but very unhealthy; the greater portion of Marash, however, together with the Andarin, Zeitoun, and Albistan Cazas, chiefly consist of wooded mountain regions, very rocky and almost impassable, and there is next to no trade, commerce, or industry other than pastural and rude agricultural pursuits, just sufficient to support the lives of the wretched oppressed Moslem and Christian villagers who inhabit these fastnesses. The wretched condition of the people is to be attributed to continued years of mis-government, which has had the effect of stilling all energy and desire of improvement, and to the nature of the country, which admits of little development at the hands of such a poverty-stricken class. Oppressed in past times, and even now in some places by the Beys, harassed by the arrival in summer of wandering tribes, robbed right and left whenever they chanced to leave their villages, quarrelling amongst each other, with no hope of justice, and ground down by over taxation, it is no wonder that they have arrived at such a state of demoralization that their lives are a burden to themselves, and they are a source of anxiety and even menace to the Government. One would have expected that in a community like this some slight remission or easement of taxation would have been

granted, but, on the contrary, nowhere I should say are the land tax and the tax on earnings so greviously over-estimated as in this sandjak, while on the Christians, in addition, falls the military exemption tax. They are quite unable to pay the amount demanded from them, and the arrears which have been accumulating ever since the Government took over the district, afford a ready cause for oppression at any time. There can be no doubt that the real origin of the trouble at Zeitoun was over-taxation, and their subsequent attitude goes far to prove this. Lieutenant Chermside's despatch pp. 77, "Turkey No. 1 (1880)," draws attention to the grievances under which they suffered on this head, and their own petition, p. 83, is equally pointed, but is was not because a similar grievance did not exist outside that the rebellion did not take a more general and serious form; Christians and Moslems are alike groaning under the burden of over-taxation throughout the district, and it is only on account of the universal ignorance and the impossibility of a union of the two parties, that the misery produced by this extortion is not a cause of serious embarassment to the Government. As an instance I may state that a short time ago a Commission, I believe, appointed by the Mutessarif, on inquiring into the land tax of the Marash Caza, which is the least heavily taxed, reported that it ought to be reduced by 85,000 piastres; this sum the Idaré Medjliss reduced to 60,000 piastres, and when it was referred to Aleppo no reduction at all was allowed. Owing either to apathy, or to the impossibility of obtaining honourable and competent officials to conduct the work, or to a deliberate intention of allowing injustice to continue, the Government declines to undertake such a simple matter as a reassessment of taxes, and pursues the discreditable course of taking what they can get, and allowing arrears to accumulate, and every now and then making an attempt to collect what is not forthcoming by a sudden order of emergency. We have recently had an example of this. A certain Colonel of the regulars was instructed to collect the arrears chiefly from Christians, I believe. He was a fanatical evil-minded man, and began by insulting the Christian members of the Idaré Medjliss, because some lists of arrears were not furnished by the Mukhtars as promptly as he required, and they thereupon withdrew, refused to attend any more, and reported the affair to Aleppo and Constantinople. Eventually they were induced to return to their duties, and he apologized. Sent to Gyuksun with troops to inquire into the disturbance between the Turks and Circassians, he again seems to have distinguished himself by acts of oppression on the adjacent villagers, with a view to collecting arrears, and I am relieved to hear that he has been recalled by telegram to Constantinople.

I am convinced that the only possible chance of an improvement in the condition of the people lies in the establishment of a strong Government, and in the revision of the taxes on fair and if necessary special bases; were a certain amount even of security and justice forthcoming, and were the taxes reduced within reasonable limits, I have no doubt that in time a great improvement would take place, money would appear, and with it the usual progress and energy would be developed; now all is black darkness and ruin, and, if possible, retrogression.

The administration of the Government since the winter of 1879 has been remarkable chiefly for slackness, indifference, and a *laisser-faire, laisser-aller* system, which though likely to delude people at a distance into the idea that all was going well at Marash, is highly discreditable even to the Turks and not unlikely to cause trouble eventually. Everything has been allowed to slide. The Mutessarif is an agreeable old man, anxious to keep on good terms with everybody, and have a quiet time of it; during the twenty months he has been here he has scarcely been outside the town, and has little real knowledge of his district; he is said to be honest. The Finance officer, I am informed, was an incompetent man, who sent in no returns for fourteen months, and left his office in complete chaos. He has lately been replaced by a better man, but it will take him a long time to put matters straight. Every one speaks of the utter impossibility of obtaining justice, robbers if captured are released by bribing the officials, the Mudaiomoum is particularly badly spoken of. The scarcity of zaptiehs (or gendarmerie, as I should call them, but I am unable as yet to distinguish the difference), is very remarkable, perhaps its being grass time for horses may have something to do with this, but as I have already reported (in the case of the robbery on Mr. Montgomery) there are no men available in case of emergency. The Bimbashi is a Servian, and is, I think, doing his best to carry out the letter of his instructions, so much so that he encounters the hostility of the officials, who are trying to get him removed. There are about 600 infantry soldiers in the district; between 200 and 300 in the barracks at Zeitoun, about 200 lately sent to Gyuksun, 50 of which I hear to-day have been sent off to the Kojan district, Adana vilayet, to try and recover the property

stolen from Mr. Montgomery, a few at a guard-house on the Marash-Albistan road and a few here.

As regards brigandage there can be no doubt that compared with two years ago travelling is much safer, but the Circassian element still causes apprehension on that head, and it will take a long time to overcome the many evils which brigandage gives rise to, and for the people to recover sufficient confidence to travel freely about in search of employment; I suspect there is still a great amount of cattle lifting and petty pilfering in the out districts, but on the whole the condition is much improved.

The serious affray which occurred about a month ago near Gyuksun, between Circassians and Turks, was owing to a dispute about a piece of ground which the Gyuksunlis claimed and the Circassians commenced to cultivate; this culminated in a free fight in which 200 Gyuksunlis and 40 Circassians took part; 5 of the former were killed and 15 wounded, while the latter lost two killed and 5 wounded; they are now said to be ashamed of themselves and troops are on the spot to preserve order.

There has been more than one murder during the past year, but the Government has done nothing, notably one at Zeitoun last summer, when one Christian shot another dead in the street; with soldiers present and a portion of the populace at any rate in favour of justice being done, the Kaimakam refused to take any steps, and I am informed the murderer is still in his house in Zeitoun, afraid to show himself on account of the threats of the friends of the murdered man.

Coming now particularly to affairs at Zeitoun, and basing my inquiries chiefly on Lieutenant Chermside's despatch from Tarsus, p. 130 of Blue Book No. 1, in which he recapitulated the improvements which were about to be introduced, I certainly do not find that the changes then inaugurated have been loyally executed by the Ottoman functionaries. The Commission was one probably of recommendation only, and from the time his back was turned everything seems to have been allowed to take its own course and settle down anyhow. Brigandage I have already spoken about, and certainly by their subsequent behaviour the Christians seem to have proved themselves well worthy of the efforts he made to obtain an amnesty for them; out of some 200 who were almost professed robbers, I do not hear now that there are any who lead lawless lives. Mr. Mardin (American missionary) tells a story of how he openly upbraided one man who for some time after affairs had been settled continued his old courses, and what he said had such an effect that in a few minutes the man got up and coming over to him took his hand and solemnly promised that he would give it up. Babek, I hear, is the owner of a large flock of sheep and goats, and is often employed by the Government.

The land tax ("emlakh") and tax on earnings were, I understand, much reduced and give satisfaction, but some are still unable to pay the latter. The tithes were collected by the Government, who of course were considerable losers, and the people were satisfied. As to the sheep tax the Commission recommended that it should be reduced to 60 paras (1½ piastres) instead of 3½ piastres, but the Idaré Medjliss declined this suggestion unless it was universally applied, and the Zeitounlis are reported as paying at the old rate slowly, but as cheating the Government by much understating the numbers of their flocks. I expect arrears are accumulating on this head and on the tax on earnings. On a future occasion I hope to be able to furnish actual figures as regards the taxes, but at present this is impossible.

The Commission recommended that the vineyards should pay a tax equal to 1½ times the value of the land tax, thus if a vineyard was valued at 1,000 piastres it would pay 4 piastres land tax and 6 piastres in lieu of the tithe on the products, or 10 per 1,000 in all; this gave satisfaction, but when the time arrived the Government wanted to take a tithe, saying there was no information as to any other arrangement, so the Zeitounlis objected, the matter dropped and nothing was paid.

As to the "bedellich," or military exemption tax, although in Article 5 of the petition of the Zeitounlis, p. 83, it appears that "nous désirons bien ardemment servir notre Sultan en corps et en force," and "nous voulons rendre absolument notre service militaire," this ardour cooled when the offer was accepted, and they discovered that they would sooner see the Christians elsewhere make the trial of serving in the ranks with the Turks first; they were afraid, no doubt with good reason, of the life they would lead; there was no confidence, no offer was made of a separate battalion or companies, so they reconsidered their offer, and decided not to afford soldiers, nor (as they are unable) to pay the exemption tax, an arrangement which, though highly satisfactory for a time to themselves, is likely to cause trouble hereafter. No doubt arrears are accumulating on this head.

Since writing the above, I am informed that the "emlakh" was reduced from 80,000 to 41,224 piastres, and the tax on earnings from 78,787 to 9,960 piastres!

As to the "bakia," I hear that the equitable measures recommended were not adopted, and the sum of 1,241,960 piastres still appears as due on account of arrears against the Zeitounlis. The difference in amount between this sum and the amount as stated by Lieutenant Chermside (2,300,000 piastres) is probably due to change in currency.

As to the Administration, there have been two or three Kaimakams at Zeitoun since the winter of 1879; in all cases a Turk and no Christian Assistant Governor has been appointed. I fear the ill-feeling between the Christians and Moslems is still very bitter, and the zaptiehs taken from both sections are unable to effect arrests. They won't arrest their own people, and they can't arrest those of the opposite class. I hear now of a Christian zaptieh coming in to complain of being ill-treated by Moslems, and to demand justice, in default of which he says the Christians can take it themselves. There is an Idaré Medjliss and two Courts of Justice, Civil and Criminal; but I hear there is no work for them to do.

As to the arms, all that were of any value were stolen before they were sent back. I believe what were sent back have never been restored to their owners, but still remain in the barracks. I hear the Zeitounlis are still sore on this point.

About the mine I have been unable to learn anything; I conclude matters remain *in statu quo*.

I am glad to hear that a school has been started by the Armenian Committee at Stamboul.

Such, then, very generally, is the present aspect of affairs in this district. A more than ordinarily feeble and corrupt Government, seemingly content to let things alone, and to take no care of its subjects, and every now and then to make a futile attempt to collect impossible and unjust taxes, which takes the form of oppression, and aggravates the existing misery, without effecting its object; a people ground down to the lowest depths of despair, and exposed to all the evils almost of anarchy, without hope and without the power of unity; and in the centre of the district a red rag, in the shape of a few thousand semi-barbarous Christians, who are regarded as heroes by their own tribe, on account of the successful battle they have fought against the Government, and encouraged thereby to further resistance; but whose conduct, even if it be looked upon as chivalrous, is none the less dangerous, as likely to excite the animosity of their Moslem rulers, and to encourage others less advantageously situated to hopeless resistance.

It is difficult to imagine that the Turkish Government is deliberately giving the Zeitounlis rope enough to hang themselves, and that they intend to let them go on till they have just grounds for taking active measures against them, and then exterminating them, and so getting rid of this thorn in their side. It is difficult to imagine that any Government would be guilty of such an atrocious machination, but the apathy and indifference displayed of late awaken suspicion that something may be brewing.

Your Excellency will make allowances for possible misconceptions and mistakes in such an early Report on this district; I intend visiting some of the sandjaks at once, and ascertaining from personal investigation how matters are going. I purpose leaving on Thursday for Bazardjik, whence I shall make my way through the pass towards Malatia, and return most likely by Elbistan and Zeitoun. I shall probably be away over a fortnight.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 127.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 466)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 11, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Colonel Warlow, containing information he has gathered during his recent journey in the southern part of the vilayet of Khudavendikyar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 1 in No 127.

Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 8.)
Sir, *Brussa, June 6, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to submit for your perusal some notes taken during my recent tour to Ushak, by the Valley of the Adranas (Rhyndacus), and back by that of the Siniaw or Susurlu (Macestus).

2. The Rhyndacus, which, during its rapid course along the southern base of Mount Olympus, brings down large quantities of soil, widens and becomes sluggish when it reaches the plain; and, in the neighbourhood of Kirmaslu Cassaba, is constantly overflowing its low banks, forming new channels and wandering all over the country, doing serious damage to cultivation and leaving stagnant pools and swamps, which cause fever and ague; all this mischief might be remedied by a little engineering, but nothing is being done.

3. At no great distance from Kirmaslu Cassaba are two springs of cold, and one of hot, mineral waters, which at present are allowed to run to waste, no use being made of them except by a few villagers.

4. The village of Adranas, marked in Kiepert's map and mentioned in Murray's Handbook as being close to the ruins of Adreoni, no longer exists, and the road from there to Harmandschik viâ Haidar is now impassable; the river cannot be followed during this stage, and the only route, over thickly wooded mountains between 3,000 feet and 4,000 feet above sea level, is barely practicable even for pack animals; it is a favourite haunt of robbers, by whom a party of travellers were plundered, and one, who resisted, killed a few days before my arrival.

5. The country through which I passed between Kirmaslu Cassaba and Towshanlu is very much out of the world, having neither telegraph nor post, and has not been visited by any "Frank" within the memory of the present generation. The villagers, a simple ignorant people, received me everywhere with kindness, and showed no signs of fanaticism; during the winter of 1879-80 they suffered terribly from famine, but are now able to live, although prices are still high.

6. At Chowdar Hissar (Aizani) I found the people in a miserable condition; their crops last year were totally destroyed by locusts, and, little food being procurable, they had to live on acorns, grass, and whatever else they could find; the deaths amongst old people and children were numerous; a glance at the Table of prices attached to this despatch will show how greatly the cost of food varies at places within a short distance of each other, and how easily much of suffering and even death might be prevented by making roads traversable, during all times of the year, by carts.

7. At Gediz (Cadi) also, a town containing about 1,000 houses, the people were thoroughly poverty stricken, their crops for three years in succession having been totally or partially destroyed by locusts; the same plague has done much damage to Ushak, where the condition of the people is very bad; there has been stagnation in the carpet trade, and women, working hard, can barely earn 2 piastres (*4d.*) a-day.

8. After leaving Ushak I travelled viâ Simaw (Amyra) and Boghadiisch, to Balikesri, through a wild, thinly inhabited country; in these parts the newly-hatched locusts are literally swarming, and will, I fear, do terrible mischief, in spite of the exertions of the local authorities, who are energetically carrying out the orders issued by the Vali. On the day that I was at Simaw about 4,000 okes (nearly 5 tons) of locusts were brought in and buried.

9. All the crops are unusually good this year, and the harvest will be a splendid one, if only it can be got in; the opium poppy, which is much cultivated in the country which I have lately visited, looks very well, and the outcome next month promises to be very large and of good quality; the system on which it is taxed varies considerably in different parts of the vilayet; in the Kara Hissar Sandjak the tax is precisely the same as on other crops, viz., 10 per cent. of the actual amount of opium obtained; in the Brussa Sandjak the fields have been classified according to their fertility, and a fixed tax of 45 piastres, 35 piastres, and 20 piastres per deunum (equal to 37*s.*, 29*s.*, and 20*s.* per acre) imposed, which has to be paid, even should the crop fail entirely, petitions for a refund being allowed in very special cases; an additional tax of 10 per cent. is charged on the seed, which is collected after the opium has been extracted; this system has been at work for seven or eight years in some parts, while in others it has only lately been introduced; in Balikesri Sandjak the principle is the same, but the rates are higher, viz., 60 piastres, 50 piastres, and 30 per deunum, and

the fields are classified afresh every year when the crops are sufficiently advanced to show what the outcome is likely to be.

10. In one particular village in the Kutaya Sandjak the people told me that they were being charged at the exorbitant rate of 100 piastres, 80 and 60 per deumum (inclusive of seed tax), which, as their best land yielded, on an average only 125 piastres worth of opium, left them a very scanty profit in the best years, while causing an actual loss in bad ones. On my asking why they did not try other crops instead, they replied that the authorities compelled them to cultivate a certain quantity of opium; if this statement be true, and it was elicited by my questions, not complained of as a grievance, the overcharge is doubtless a piece of swindling on the part of some of the local officials.

11. The plan of a fixed tax per deumum of land is extremely unpopular with the peasantry, partly because their lands have been too highly assessed, partly because, owing to their extreme poverty and hand-to-mouth style of living, they are unable to make provision for bad years, and partly, no doubt, owing to the dislike for changes, which is one of their strongest characteristics.

12. The Sandjak and town of Balikesri have been so recently and fully reported on by the Consul-General, Colonel Wilson, that there is nothing left for me to say about them. The newly-appointed Mutessarif (Lieutenant-Governor), Hassan Bey, formerly First Chamberlain to the late Sultan, Abdul Aziz, speaks freely of the existing abuses, which he intends to reform.

13. After leaving Balikesri I visited the boracite mines, owned by Messrs. Desmazures and Co., and by the firm of Hauson, now in liquidation; these mines are giving a good outturn and afford employment to between 300 and 400 hands, mostly Circassian refugees, who are highly spoken of as intelligent, sober, and very industrious workmen; their pay is from 8 to 10 piastres a-day.

14. From Moualitch I went to the mouth of the Rhyndacusion, a steamer belonging to Messrs. Desmazures and Co., who, during the last two or three years, have canalized and deepened the river, making it navigable for about 60 miles, and enabling the country round Moualitch and Lake Apollonia, to forward its produce direct to Constantinople.

15. The condition of the country, so far as I have been able to ascertain during my tour, is as follows:—

(1.) Violent crime is, comparatively speaking, kept down, *i.e.*, there are no organized gangs of brigands.

(2.) The refugees have been settled down and are not allowed to plunder the country, as they do in an adjoining district (Sandjak of Ismid).

(3.) The collection of tithes by Government officials, against whom I have heard few complaints, has relieved the peasantry from the oppression and extortion of the tithe farmers.

(4.) Owing to a succession of bad years, to the terrible waste of life during the Russian war, to the calling out again of the redifs, to ever-increasing taxation, and to the absence of roads, poverty and distress are general alike in town and country, the people being in every respect worse off than they were six or seven years ago.

(5.) The Courts of Justice are dens of thieves; no one has a good word to say for them.

(6.) The Municipalities, beyond providing a doctor, do nothing whatever for the townspeople, the whole amount realized by local taxation being, in many cases, swallowed up by the pay of officials, office expenses, and "sundries:" this remark does not apply to the town of Brussa.

16. The country people appear to have a strong feeling in favour of Russia, whose Government, I was told at one place, were endeavouring to induce the Sultan to reduce taxation.

17. In conclusion, I should mention that no complaints of misgovernment were volunteered, although, in the course of conversation, people spoke freely of their sufferings and wrongs, seeming to regard them as inevitable evils against which it were alike idle to murmur and useless to strive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 127.

TABLE showing the Price of Food.

Distance.	Name of Place.	Piastres per Killi.		
		Wheat.	Barley.	Maize.
Miles.				
	Kirmaslu Cassaba	25	20	18
18	Yenikeuy	30	24	22
33	Begjik	35	27	25
23	Harmandschik	37	26	30
23	Towshanlu	40	33	28
33	Chowdar Hissar	70	44	38
16	Gediz	55	32	
28	Ushak	45	38	36
20	Kiziluzum	50	30	35
24	Simaw	45	30	25
30	Nara*	60	38	
50	Balikesri*	40	30	37

The "killi" at these places (*) is double the one in use at the others.

Over a tolerably good road grain could be carried in carts at the cost of about 1 piastre per kilog. for 20 miles, *e.g.*, wheat from Ushak might be sold at Chowdar Hissar at 48 or 49 piastres, and barley at 41 piastres; from Towshanlu, wheat at 42 piastres and barley at 40 piastres.

No. 128.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 107.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 10, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, with reference to my despatch No. 139 of the 2nd instant, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral, containing further information respecting the locust plague in the Angora Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 128.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 103.)
Sir, *Angora, June 3, 1881.*

I BEG to inform your Excellency that the locust plague has visibly increased since I wrote last on the 28th May, despatch No. 102.

These destructive pests have not only surrounded, but entered, the town itself. The whole population, men, women, and children have been engaged from morning till night collecting and destroying them, but every day there are fresh millions to attack. They have done much damage to vineyards, vegetable-gardens, and fields of grain in the environs of the town; and even cemeteries and private gardens are only protected from their ravages by constant vigilance and employing paid labour. The amount collected and handed over to the authorities, against formal receipts, amounts to a total of 1,650 tons weight.

As these are buried in pits close to each other, I have thought it dutiful to point out to the authorities that the emanations from this putrid mass may cause epidemic disease, and beg them to use quick-lime for the future. As usual, promises are made and orders given, but nothing is done, and in the infected quarters the stench is already overpowering.

From the whole western portion of the vilayet the accounts of the utter destruction of grain crops are of the most distressing kind. Many of the villages are already

deserted, and the miserable inhabitants are crowding into town or wandering aimlessly about in search of food and alms.

To the eastward the intelligence is more hopeful. The Sandjaks of Kur-Sheir, Yosgat, and Kaisarieh are still untouched, the crops are exceptionally good, and should the locust visitation be delayed twenty-five days longer, the harvest will be safe. Unfortunately, the direction the locusts (still unfledged) take is due eastward, and all efforts of man, bird, and beast seem futile to arrest their progress. In ten days more they will be on the wing, when their destructiveness will, of course, be increased ten-fold.

I regret to have to add that the local authorities seem quite unequal to the crisis. They either spend the time in devising elaborate schemes which are impracticable, or harass the people with regulations regarding forced labour which the rich and well-to-do sneer at and disregard, and the poor obey only under compulsion, and with a sort of passive resistance that defeats the object in view.

At the request of the Vali, I have drawn up and handed to him a carefully-prepared plan of the measures that seem necessary in view of the impending famine, with the double object of allaying the public fear and excitement, and providing while yet there is time the needful food supplies till next harvest. This scheme was warmly approved both by the Governor-General and the Administrative Council of the province, to whom it was read; the only objection made to it was that the Constantinople authorities would never be induced to accept it. I urged the Vali, however, to submit some such scheme, and pointing out to Government the inevitable consequences that will ensue, leave the responsibility of such consequences with the officials who reject it.

I regret to have again to report several cases of the abduction of Christian boys, for immoral purposes, by licentious Turks. Regarding this I shall write your Excellency more fully by next courier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 129.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 468.) *Constantinople, June 11, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Biliotti respecting the arrivals of Laz immigrants from Batoum, the unsettled state of the districts to which they are sent, and the police force there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 129.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 30.) *Trebizond, May 26, 1881.*

Sir,

AS the term fixed by the Treaty of Berlin for the evacuation by the inhabitants of the territory ceded to Russia is nearing its end, the Porte, at the repeated instances of the Lazes, has lately placed two steamers at their disposal. Their still being a considerable number of intended emigrants, and the means of transport being deficient, they are mostly landed in this vilayet, in order that as many as possible may be conveyed out of Russia before the expiration of the prescribed period.

No official statistic has been made public of the number of Lazes who, within the last two years, have settled in the Province of Trebizond, but they may be reckoned to amount to between 25,000 and 30,000.

The inhabitants complain of the heavy burden thrown on them, and which weighs more especially on Mussulmans. At Atina, east of Trebizond, the latter paid 1,000*l.* to the Laz immigrants to induce them to remove elsewhere; they proceeded to Ordoo, in which canton settled about one-fourth of the whole emigrants in this vilayet.

I have reported in despatch No. 24 of the 4th instant, an outrage which was

lately perpetrated by them at Perchembé, in the nahié of Ordoo. Only one of the malefactors seems to have been captured by the Laz Chief sent to their pursuit.

In a letter received from Ordoo since that date it is stated that the inhabitants can no longer proceed safely from one place to another in the vicinity of that town.

Three robberies are reported as having taken place within the last few days, and the state of things in the neighbouring districts of Boulaman, Fatza, and Uniah is described as being still worse, brigandage and piracy being practised on a larger scale. No fault is found with the local authorities who, with the best, will have no means to repress disorders.

The Governor-General, with whom I spoke on the subject, admits that tranquillity is disturbed by the presence of the emigrants, but thinks that there is exaggeration in the present reports. I, however, entirely share his opinion that if no remedial measures are adopted by the Porte disorders will increase and attain very serious proportions, more especially if the influx of Lazes continue in the same proportion as now.

The police force at the disposal of the Sub-Governors in the districts where Lazes are located is ridiculously small. The number of inhabitants and that of zaptichs and sovaris is as follows in the cazas of:—

	Inhabitants.	Zaptichs.	Sovaris.
Kerassand	130,000	38	..
Ordoo	90,000	30	4
Fatza	26,000	12	..
Uniah	32,000	15	7
Thermé	21,000	4	7
Tcharchamba	55,000	8	10
Total	354,000	107	28

I suggested to the Pasha to ask for one or two companies of soldiers to be stationed in each of these cantons. He had already submitted a similar demand, and the answer received was that their were no available troops either at Erzinghian nor at Constantinople, owing to the Kurdish and Greek complications, but that he might enrol additional zaptichs if he had available funds. However, as the police force in this vilayet consists of only 962 officers and men, and as no less than an equal number would be required to form an efficient body, it is out of the question that the funds, if any, that may be available in the Treasury at Trebizond, will enable the Governor-General to enrol an adequate number of zaptichs for the present wants of this vilayet.

I understand that, with the exception of such of the Lazes who are in a position to provide for their wants, each immigrant receives a ration of 300 drahms of Indian corn per day out of the grain collected by the Government from tithes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 130.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 470.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June 11, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches addressed by Mr. Assistant Richards to Sir C. Wilson respecting the commerce and the zaptich force of the Vilayet of Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 130.

Mr. Richards to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 3.)

Sivas, March 8, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, according to instructions, a Report on the present state of commerce in the Vilayet of Sivas, which I trust may prove of interest to you.

Unfortunately, owing to the indirect nature of the import trade, which is, to a certain extent, crippled, hampered, and overweighted by the commissions, extra charges, and sometimes adulterations to which it is subject at the various foreign hands that transmit it at Constantinople and elsewhere, I am not in a position to give an account of its extent or value. At Samsoon, the chief port of this province, and indeed of the whole Black Sea coast-line, there is no direct import trade with Europe, all goods passing through the Constantinople channel, so that even if I possessed accurate statistical information of the amount and value of imports at Samsoon, which I do not, it would not convey a correct impression of the actual import trade with Europe, owing to the manipulating process carried on at the capital, as referred to above. "Except during the peculiar circumstances of 1853-56, no direct import trade has been carried on from England to Samsoon, but a direct export has been attempted, viz., in tobacco, of which about 7,000 bales, giving a value of about 17,000*l.*, were sent to Liverpool in 1867, and nearly double the quantity was shipped in 1868 for the same destination, but the results were not satisfactory, and that branch of trade has, since 1868, been wholly abandoned."

I have taken the liberty of quoting the above sentence from a Report made by Mr. Consul Palgrave in the year 1872 on trade prospects in Trebizond, as bearing out what I have said on the subject of import trade. What he says of English import trade only is still true of European imports generally, even after the lapse of eight years. This being the case, the account which I am about to give of the state of commerce in this vilayet will be confined solely to exports, with such additional remarks on the main products of the several districts as may be of use in giving some idea of the productive power of the soil under existing circumstances, always taking into consideration the primitive system of agriculture and the extreme poverty of the peasantry. For imports, I will merely state that they consist mainly of Manchester prints and cottons, Glasgow muslins, Sheffield cutlery, French sugar, coffee from the West Indies; of late years, tea, woollen goods, silks, leather, petroleum from America, &c. Speaking roughly, according to a vague estimate made in Amasia, the imports of this vilayet exceed by two or three times the amount of the exports.

In giving a short account of the natural resources and productive capabilities of this vilayet, the simplest plan will be to consider the province according to its administrative divisions of sandjaks, which I shall therefore adopt.

Beginning with the central Sandjak of Sivas, one is struck at once with the vast grain-producing capabilities of the district. Upland after upland, valley after valley, one sees nothing but wheat, barley, rye, millet, and oat fields, extending for miles and miles. This sandjak is, in fact, in time of need a granary for all the surrounding districts, although a somewhat reprehensible carelessness on the part of the Government, the greed and rapacity of tithe-farmers, and the extreme ignorance of a poverty-stricken peasantry combine to diminish in no small degree the otherwise inevitable results of the action of a genial climate on a rich, and, to a considerable extent, virgin soil. Even under these conditions, large quantities of corn are grown, far in excess of the needs of the existing population, but owing to the distance from the coast and the absence of good roads, the cost of carriage to Samsoon, the nearest port, is too excessive to admit of profit being derived from the undertaking. The vilayet generally is one of the most abundant grain-growing provinces of Turkey in Asia, and one which, with the establishment of railways, would export largely to Europe. The wheat is of good quality, more especially in the neighbourhood of Amasia and Marsovan, where it is far superior to the produce of Southern Russian markets, and indeed rivals the finest exported from America. Sivas wheat is not equal in quality to that grown in the Sandjak of Amasia, being light, soft, in that respect resembling Russian wheat, and less capable of sustaining a long sea voyage without undergoing some deterioration in substance. As a general rule, wheat is never exported from this sandjak owing to the causes enumerated above, although under exceptional circumstances it has been sent in large quantities to Constantinople, but this has occurred so rarely that it may be left altogether out of one's calculations. Within the limits of Asia Minor it finds ready

purchasers, not only in the markets of Tokat and Kara-hissar, which it readily supplies, but also in Yosgad, Angora, Kharput, Diarbekir, and Erzinghian. But even this limited exportation is not assured to the corn-growers, the charge for transport being sometimes so high as to be virtually prohibitive. Then, again, every year large quantities of grain collected by the Government tax-gatherers are stored away in barns and left to rot. Last year, in one caza alone, that of Tönös, 20,000 kilés (Sivas measurement), *i.e.*, 140,000 kilés (Constantinople measurement) were thrown out of the Government granaries as worthless, and that at a time when men were starving by thousands in the neighbourhood of Mardin, Mosul, and Diarbekir. This, too, is not an isolated case, but rather a constant subject of complaint throughout the country, more especially by the poor, who are not unfrequently compelled to buy wheat which is no longer fit for food at such prices as the Local Government fixes on.

According to a computation based on last year's tithes, this sandjak produces on an average 2,800,000 kilés of wheat (Constantinople measurement) yearly; but if the late spring, following on an unusually cold and severe winter, and other external and internal causes, be taken into account, twice this amount, or even more, would not be too high an estimate. Add to that 1,500,000 kilés of barley, and one-third of that quantity again of rye, and a fairly correct idea may be formed of the grain-producing capabilities of the sandjak. In considering these figures, moreover, two facts should be borne in mind: firstly, the small extent of land under tillage as compared with that which is uncultivated; and, secondly, the present primitive system of agriculture, a very slight improvement on which would give most satisfactory results.

Besides cereals, the Sandjak of Sivas is very limited in agricultural wealth, the only other point worth mentioning being wool, which forms, indeed, the staple article of commerce in the district. The "agnam," or sheep-tax, for last year realized 3,150,000 piastres in this sandjak, which, being at 3 piastres a-head, gives 1,050,000 as the number of sheep and goats, the proportion of sheep to goats being two to one. This alone, however, would not account for the large yearly exportation (1,000,000 okes) of wool, a considerable fraction of which comes from sheep which in reality belong to the Sandjak of Tokat. In the heat of summer large flocks come up from that district to the cooler "yailas" (uplands) of Sivas, and are shorn here, the wool being disposed of in the Sivas market, and so coming to figure as Sivas wool.

Other articles of commerce are skins of goats, hares, and "sansars" (? pole-cats), the latter being inferior in quality to those exported from Tokat, Amasia, and Kara-hissar. The Sivas goat-skins are much lighter than those of Amasia; hence the difference of price. A good Amasia goat-skin weighs sometimes as much as 2 okes, while those in the Sivas Sandjak rarely if ever exceed 1 oke in weight. There is a small carpet-making industry in this sandjak, more especially in the Caza of Tönös, the chief town in which, Charkashlar, is almost solely occupied with this branch of manufacture. A few are sent to Constantinople, but not enough to deserve a place among the regular articles of export trade, of which I inclose a tabular statement.

Passing to the Sandjak of Tokat, we find the place of grain taken up by tobacco and opium, the latter, with its concomitant "khashkhash," a kind of oil extracted from the berry of the poppy, and possessing the same soporific qualities as opium, contributing more than £T. 40,000 towards the total of the exports of this district. The cultivation of opium was first introduced into this sandjak about six years ago, and has proved a great success, the best produce being now able to compete with that of Malatia, a town which ranks among the foremost in this country for the quantity and quality of its opium. The conditions of soil and climate in Tokat and neighbourhood seem extremely favourable to the cultivation of this plant, which, judging from the high degree of excellence it has attained in so short a time, will no doubt, to some extent, make up for the comparative absence of cereals and the loss sustained by the almost total failure of the copper trade.

Tobacco, although not an article of exportation, is one of the chief products of the soil. In the Kaz Ora as much as 260,000 okes are raised yearly; while from the whole sandjak, exclusive of the Cazas of Erba'a and Zileh, 400,000 okes are not unfrequently brought into the market. I shall include the above-mentioned Cazas of Erba'a and Zileh in my account of the Sandjak of Amasia, because they have only recently been detached from this sandjak, and incorporated with the newly-constituted Sandjak of Tokat.

The tobacco crop depends very much on the weather. If there be a heavy rain-fall during the spring and early summer, the crop is abundant, and *vice versâ*. Tobacco is exported from Tokat to Sivas, Kaisarieh, Angora, Erzeroum, Erzinghian, &c., but

none to Constantinople, it being unable to compete with the markets of Batra, Samsoon, or even Amasia, not to mention the distance to be traversed on bad roads before it reaches the coast. Until quite recently the contraband trade has been enormous; but already the officials of the "Six Indirect Contributions" have effectually stopped a good deal of it. The Government octroi of 20 piastres per oke is too heavy to admit of any considerable profit accruing from the legitimate tobacco trade, so long as the contraband article finds ready purchasers at one-third of the price. Tobacco registered in the custom-house yields a very small profit, not exceeding 50 paras the oke, whereas, if contraband, as much as 5 piastres is made on every oke sold. The smugglers deal mostly with the villagers, who, in turn, take the tobacco to some dealer in the town who is always ready and willing to share the illicit gains.

The cultivation of yellow berries is very much less than in former years, although even now it forms one of the chief articles of exportation. Some fifty years ago it was in great demand, and rapidly increased in price until it realized the abnormal sum of 1 lira the batman (6 okes). Its cultivation was, in consequence, enormously increased, when the price fell as rapidly as it had risen, and finally cultivation almost entirely ceased. About fifteen years ago it was recommenced, and is now fairly flourishing, the yield being higher than that of either Amasia or Kara-hissar. It is now worth from 25 to 30 piastres the batman (4 to 5 piastres the oke), which is the current price throughout the vilayet. The best yellow berry market is Egin; Angora ranks next, followed by Kaisarieh, Tokat, and Amasia in a descending scale. The demand for yellow berries in Europe is diminishing year by year, aniline dyes having superseded and rendered comparatively worthless that once highly-prized article in Western markets.

Madder seems to be doing well in this sandjak, although the cultivation is not pursued to any very great extent. It very frequently grows spontaneously in gardens, vineyards, and orchards, and, curiously enough, in this case is more highly valued by the connoisseurs than the cultivated plant, which never attains the size not uncommonly reached by the former. It is mostly used by native dyers, the exportation at present being small.

Hemp is cultivated to a considerable extent in the Kaz Ora, and there alone, the produce being used in Tokat, where there is a small hemp and flax trade, the surplus being generally sent to Aleppo. The Kaz Ora, a plain measuring some 23 miles in length, on the direct route to Amasia, supplies the market of Tokat with half, if not two-thirds, of its produce. Besides cereals, the opium, tobacco, yellow berries, hemp, and madder of the sandjak come mostly from this district, not to mention its vineyards, which supply all the surrounding country with a good, sound, wholesome wine. The cultivators for the most part are Circassians, who, it would seem, when they do once settle down to a quiet agricultural life, not unfrequently thrive much better than their neighbours. In this case they certainly have willing coadjutors in the soil itself, which is wonderfully fertile, and the climate, which is peculiarly suited to the growth of these products, more especially of tobacco, yellow berries, and hemp.

The copper trade, which thirty or forty years ago was a source of wealth and prosperity, not only to those immediately concerned but to the whole sandjak, is now almost extinct. During the period mentioned there were as many as 500 shops in the copper trade, and 2,500 workmen engaged in the various branches of the manufacture. Tokat copper enjoyed an extensive sale throughout Asia Minor, and was unrivalled for its excellence and the finish of the various utensils of which it formed the material. The Government smelting works are supplied with ore from the Argana Ma'aden, the well-known copper mines on the slopes of the Taurus. These are, perhaps, the richest mines of this metal in Anatolia, yet, though this ore contains an average of from 12 to 15 per cent. of fine copper, and the mines are worked on Government account, the yearly outcome is less than 500 tons of refined copper, a poverty of result that is partly explained by the transport on camel-back over a journey of more than 64 hours to be refined at Tokat, but still more by the want of system and energy in the working. Another cause of the rapid decline of the Tokat copper trade has been foreign competition. Large quantities of cheap copper are imported yearly from Europe, and more especially from England, being in most cases old metal furbished up, and considerably inferior to the produce of the Argana mines. The Government, however, insist on selling its copper at from 11 to 13 piastres the oke, a price which renders competition with that imported from England impossible. Finished copper of Tokat sells at 18 piastres the oke, and the best quality realizes sometimes as much as 40 or 50 piastres the oke, although the sale of such is decreasing yearly. Sheet copper is

imported from Constantinople at 12 to 12½ piastres the oke. At present there are only ten shops engaged in the trade, and these are very frequently closed for want of custom.

Since my return from Tokat I understand that there is a small yet thriving linen trade going on in that town, of which, however, I am unable to give any particulars. The flax, I believe, comes mostly from Trebizond.

Passing to the Sandjak of Amasia, the contrast between it and those of Tokat and Sivas is very striking. Trade in the Sandjak of Amasia, including the Cazas of Erba'a and Zileh, as explained above, shows a total of £T. 210,307, while the exports of the Sandjak of Sivas do not amount to one-third of that sum, the district of Tokat being still lower in the scale. In the case of Sivas, however, cereals, which under more favourable conditions would be the chief article of export, do not figure in the list at all; while, on the other hand, the exported grain of Amasia realizes yearly the considerable total of £T. 102,752. For Amasia the comparatively short distance from the coast, and the improved state of the roads, more especially in summer, when wheel traffic is general, have combined to make export trade not only a possibility but a very substantial reality, as will be seen by glancing at the inclosed tabular statement.

The chief articles of the export trade of this sandjak are wheat and flour, bamya, skins, and fruit.

The wheat of this district, especially the produce of the home caza and that of Marsovan, is, as I have previously stated, the finest in the country. The grain is large, considerably heavier than that of Sivas, and hard, producing, when properly treated, very fine lustrously white flour. Large quantities are shipped yearly for Constantinople, where it ranks higher than any other, except Hungarian, which closely resembles the American produce. It takes plenty of water, which connoisseurs consider a great desideratum, and is especially adapted for confectionery. In quality and substance it surpasses Russian flour, which is only bought in the coast towns of the Black Sea when the Amasia flour market is exhausted.

Bamya, a vegetable peculiar to this country, and much eaten by the natives, is cultivated to an enormous extent in this sandjak. Amasia bamya, which is more succulent, smaller, and, on that account, more highly esteemed than the produce of any other part of Asia Minor, has gained a widespread reputation throughout the country, being everywhere highly prized by the native population. It is also exported largely to Constantinople, and thence to Egypt, Persia, and the East generally.

Skins form no inconsiderable item in the list of Amasia exports, the goat-skin being of a particularly fine quality, and far heavier than those of Sivas. Hare-skins are abundant, and much sought after, coming mostly from the Caza of Mejid Enzu, in the direction of Yosgad. "Sansars" (? pole-cat) abound in this sandjak; their skins, which are highly esteemed by furriers, fetching sometimes as much as 130 piastres apiece, the quality being far superior to that of the same animal in the Sivas district, although from what cause I have been unable to determine. Fox-skins are also plentiful, as indeed throughout the vilayet, but do not command any sale abroad, being considerably inferior to the Russian species.

Amasia fruit, especially apples, is so well known that I need hardly dilate on its excellence. As will be seen in the inclosed tabular statement, there is a considerable export trade in this most perishable of goods, a fact which, considering the difficulties of transport (although, it is true, less than in any other part of the vilayet), is well worthy of attention. In early summer the natives suffer from a surfeit of every kind of fruit, large quantities being left every year to rot on the ground for want of consumers. With improved means of communication with the coast there would be hardly any limit to the exportation, which at present is somewhat desultory, owing to the extraordinary indolence and apathy of the natives, out of whom years of debt seem to have crushed the little energy they once possessed.

The subject of debt brings me to the silk manufactory, which, though now nearly extinct, was once the mainstay of a thriving population. In the year 1858 £T. 162,500 worth of silk was exported from Amasia alone, besides £T. 20,000 worth of silk-worm eggs. Silk-worm rearing afforded an occupation for thousands, who made, comparatively speaking, small fortunes while the industry flourished. The silk of Amasia at this period was the finest in the world, the cocoons being marvels of size and brilliancy of colour. I have taken the year 1858 as a limit, but in reality, previous to that, I am assured that the silk gathering has been known to reach as much as 300,000 okes, equal to 825,000 lbs., value 1,125,000*l*. However, since the year

1858 there has been a rapid falling-off until we find, in the year 1878, an output of only 3,000 okes, which in 1879 became 2,000 okes, and last year only 1,500 okes. This falling-off has been partly occasioned by the prevalence of disease among the worms themselves, partly by the unskilfulness of the rearers, but above all by want of capital, most of the proprietors being deep in debt. The original silk-worm of Amasia exists no longer, the race being extinct. The present worms are from eggs imported from Japan. Recently the trade may almost be said to be extinct; prices are so low that the cultivation yields little if any profit.

Cotton does not succeed here and cannot, the climate being against it.

The name of Krug is too well known in connection with Amasia and its trade prospects to need any mention here. Suffice it to say that these gentlemen export the finest flour in the district, and have moreover recently established a match factory which bids fair to be a very great success.

Marsovan is a flourishing town, which promises to rival Amasia at no distant period. There is a considerable export trade in wheat to Samsoon, and thence to Constantinople, averaging 200,000 kilés (Constantinople measurement) per annum, which it will be seen, on reference to the Table, is a fourth of the whole wheat export. In quality it is equal to that of Amasia. The grape produce of Marsovan is worth £T. 7,000 yearly, the half going into commerce. Yellow berries bring in on an average £T. 300 a-year, but gum tragacanth does not flourish. Copper utensils are made in this town to a considerable extent, and sent all over the country. Copper is imported from Europe in the sheet, as well as in the block from Turkish mines. The copper trade is estimated to be worth £T. 1,000 annually. Marsovan "douluk," a kind of fabric somewhat resembling calico, was at one time well known throughout the country, more especially during the late war, when large profits were made, but the sale has now considerably diminished, though the material still bears a high reputation throughout the vilayet. The trade is now estimated to yield a net profit of £T. 2,400 a-year only; 80 per cent. of the Marsovan "douluk" is sold out of the caza. There is also a small bootmaking trade which appears to be flourishing. The annual trade of Marsovan is worth about £T. 40,000, though in this sum are included workmen's wages.

On the whole, commerce in this sandjak is very flourishing, and rapidly increasing, although profits are small owing to the keenness of competition.

There now remains only the Sandjak of Kara-hissar, of which, I am sorry to say, I can give only a very meagre account. I can get no reliable information as to its exports without visiting the sandjak itself, which is out of the question at present.

The chief object of interest is the alum, of which there are six mines, all more or less worked. Of these, three are old and three are new. These mines were worked originally by the Government, but finally abandoned for lack of funds. They are now worked in rather a desultory fashion by those who choose to pay the Government 5 per cent. on the amount of the alum extracted, a percentage which was as high as 20 for those who worked the old mines. The alum of Kara-hissar is not exported, though it finds a ready sale throughout the country, being used in all branches of trade. In quality it is much superior to Russian alum, being stronger and more lustrous, but less suitable for the working up of fine materials, for which the European article is mostly used. The output is too small to make exportation a profitable undertaking; at least, this is the explanation I receive from those who extol its excellence. It used to be exported largely to Syria and Egypt, as much as 3,000 loads being sent annually to the former country. Its price averages now 9 piastres the batman (6 okes). The present annual output of alum is about 100,000 okes, which is not much; but the mines, if worked regularly and properly, would yield six or seven times the amount. Formerly as much as 400,000 okes were extracted annually. There is a considerable amount of sediment in Kara-hissar alum, which is used mostly by tanners, but which, as I explained above, renders it unsuited for finer work.

The grain cultivation of this sandjak is not very extensive, being considerably less than in either the Amasia or Tokat Sandjaks. There is, therefore, no exportation of cereals. A very fair crop of tragacanth is gathered in yearly, also a very considerable amount of hemp, which is much exported. It does also a good export trade in skins and filbert-nuts. Of mohair there is very little, while the yellow berries are not equal in quality to those of Tokat. There are two or three silver-mines in the neighbourhood of Kara-hissar worked by mixed companies of Moslems and Christians.

Beyond these few items, I am unfortunately unable to give a detailed account of the commerce of this sandjak, for the reasons I have given above.

In conclusion, I will apologize, Sir, for the general vagueness and unsatisfactory

nature of this Report, on the score of entire absence of trade statistics, and the lack of comprehension in those to whom I had recourse for information, even in merchants of some standing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 130.

Tabular Statement of the Exports of the Vilayet of Sivas.

Sandjak of Amasia.

Article of Commerce.	Average Amount Exported.	Average Price.	Value.
		Prs. p.	£T.
Wheat	800,000 kilés	14 00 per kilé	102,752
Opium	6,000 okes	250 00 per oke	13,761
Khashkhash	132,000 ,,	0 40 ,,	1,211
Yellow berries	80,000 ,,	4 00 ,,	2,936
Chick-pea	170,000 ,,	1 00 ,,	1,560
Bamya	400,000 ,,	11 00 ,,	40,367
Goat-skins	100,000 skins	13 00 a skin	11,927
Tobacco	40,000 okes	3 00 per oke	1,101
Mohair	15,000 ,,	21 00 ,,	2,890
Hemp	90,000 ,,	3 00 ,,	2,477
Fruit	700,000 piastres	.. ..	5,422
Hare-skins	100,000 skins	2 00 a skin	1,836
Wool	15,000 okes	7 00 per oke	963
Flour	20,000 sacks	90 00 per sack	16,514
Silk	1,500 okes	225 00 per oke	3,096
Sansar-skins	600 skins	90 00 a skin	496
Total value of exports	..	..	210,307

Sandjak of Sivas.

Goat-skins	25,000 skins	11 00 per skin	2,641
Tragacanth	15,000 okes	20 00 per oke	2,885
Wool	1,000,000 ,,	6 00 ,,	67,692
Yellow berries	1,200 ,,	1 00 ,,	16
Mohair	20,000 ,,	20 00 ,,	3,846
Hare-skins	8,000 skins	2 00 per skin	154
Sansar-skins	400 ,,	60 00 ,,	231
Beeswax	5,000 okes	14 00 ,,	673
Total value of exports	..	..	68,171

Sandjak of Tokat.

Opium	15,000 okes	250 00 per oke	36,058
Yellow berries	100,000 ,,	4 00 ,,	3,846
Tragacanth	6,000 ,,	20 00 ,,	1,154
"Mahleb"	8,000 ,,	43 00 ,,	3,308
Madder	3,000 ,,	1 00 ,,	115
Hemp	10,000 ,,	3 00 ,,	288
Mohair	3,000 ,,	20 00 ,,	577
Goat-skins	8,000 skins	12 00 per skin	923
Hare-skins	8,000 ,,	2 00 ,,	154
Sansar-skins	500 ,,	80 00 ,,	385
Khashkhash	350,000 okes	0 60 per oke	5,025
Wool	150,000 ,,	6 00 ,,	8,654
Total value of exports	..	..	64,087

SANDJAK OF KARA-HISSAR.*

Article of Commerce.	Average Amount Exported.	Average Price.	Value.
		Prs. p.	£ T.
Tragacanth	10,000 okes ..	18 00 per oke ..	1,651
Goat-skins	10,000 skins ..	12 00 per skin ..	1,101
Hare-skins	20,000 „ ..	2 00 „ ..	367
Sansar-skins	425 „ ..	80 00 „ ..	312
Hemp	150,000 okes ..	3 00 per oke ..	1,128
Tobacco	60,000 „ ..	3 00 „ ..	1,651
Yellow berries	60,000 „ ..	4 20 „ ..	2,477
Wool	Not known ..	Not known ..	..
Filbert-nuts	Not known ..	Not known ..	..
Total value of exports (as far as known) . ..	..	..	11,987

Total value of the exports of the Vilayet of Sivas .. .. Liras. 351,252

(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 130.

Mr. Richards to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 8.) *Sivas, May 23, 1881.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward a few remarks on the zaptieh force of this vilayet.

Knowing, Sir, how much importance attaches, more especially at present, when the gendarmerie system is about to be introduced throughout the Turkish dominions, to a clear conception of what has been and is done for the protection and preservation of life and property in this country, I will venture to go somewhat into details on this point, although it is a subject which has been previously thoroughly discussed, and with which you, Sir, are perfectly conversant.

The zaptieh, or rural police force, of this vilayet, as of every other, is under the command of an officer holding the rank of Kaïmakam, or Lieutenant-Colonel—a rank which he formerly held in the Imperial army—and known as the Alaï Bey, who resides in Sivas as the chief town of the vilayet, and has the supreme control of the force throughout the province, being responsible only to the Minister of War. Acting under the orders of this officer, there are in each of the four sandjaks which constitute the vilayet, a "Binbashi," or Major, locally, and perhaps more generally, known as the Tahour Agassi. These officers also once held the same rank in the Imperial army. Under them are other officers, holding the rank of Captain and Lieutenant, both mounted and foot, besides non-commissioned officers, consisting of Chaouches, or Serjeants, and Onbashis, or Corporals. Immediately attached to the Alaï Bey is the Alaï Kyatibi, or as he is sometimes termed, the Hissab Emini, whose duty it is to audit the accounts sent to him from the sandjaks, and after careful revision to forward the same to the Minister of War at Constantinople. He is also entrusted with the superintendence of all official correspondence connected with the force, and as far as this department is concerned, is responsible only to the Alaï Bey. This officer (Alaï Kyatibi) also originally held the same rank in the Imperial army. In each sandjak, subject to the orders of the Binbashi, is an official known as the Tahour Regatibi, who keeps the accounts for, and conducts the official correspondence in connection with, that portion of the force which is under the command of the Binbashi. The accounts he forwards periodically to the Alaï Kyatibi to be audited, and, as far as this is concerned, is responsible to that official. There is also a functionary styled the Tournal Emini in every sandjak, whose special duties seem somewhat vague and undefined. According to some accounts he assists the Tahour Kyatibi in his secretarial duties; according to others he is generally an illiterate person, unable to read or write, and therefore cannot be of much service in a clerical capacity; in the latter case he ranks,

* These figures do not represent whole of export trade of this sandjak.

I believe, as a Mulazim (Lieutenant), and as such is employed on active service with a few men under his command, or alone, as occasion may require.

The force is composed of mounted and foot zaptiehs, the latter being employed in the towns, and the former mostly in the country. There are 225 mounted and 156 foot zaptiehs in this vilayet, exclusive of commissioned and non-commissioned officers. Including the latter, the force numbers altogether 463 men. I say numbers, but I have reason to believe, on very good authority, that in reality the effective is considerably less than these figures would imply, which I have given as supplied to me from official sources.

The pay of zaptiehs ranges from 2,000 piastres per month, which the Alaï Bey receives, to 70 piastres per month allotted to the simple foot zaptieh. They receive rations according to their rank, consisting of the value in money, according to the current prices, of a fixed quantity of bread, barley, and chopped straw for the mounted police, and of bread only for the foot.

In point of numbers there can be no doubt that the force is sadly deficient, even supposing there were so many actually employed as I have stated (463). Admitting, however, the correctness of these figures, and deducting, first, the commissioned officers, amounting to 28 persons, and, secondly, those of the force who are employed exclusively in the large towns and the home cazas of the four sandjaks, amounting to 236 non-commissioned officers and men, we have a remainder of 199 men on whom mainly depends the preservation of life and property throughout the province. Exclusive of the home cazas, this vilayet is divided into 21 cazas, from which it will be seen that the average of zaptiehs to a caza is something over 9. Taking the sandjaks individually, however, I find there is an average of nearly 11 to every caza in the Sivas Sandjak, of 7⅓ for the Amasia Sandjak, of 12⅔ for that of Tokat, and of 7½ for that of Kara-hissar. But, as I stated previously, I am told on good authority that in reality the average of zaptiehs to a caza is certainly not more than 6. When, Sir, it is taken into consideration that the average caza in this vilayet is fully as large as an English county of the size of Essex, and in many cases much larger, it will at once be seen that a body of six or even nine men is a miserably inadequate force. It is true one must always take into account the fact that this country is very sparsely populated, but even so, such a mere handful of men could, with the very best intentions, be of little use under these conditions. The constant complaint here of the inability of the existing zaptieh force to cope successfully with the highway robbers which infest the country is abundant and daily augmenting proof of the inefficiency of this police body.

As regards their pay, I need not tell you, Sir, that it is always in arrears, none of the force, except perhaps a few officers, having received a farthing, except for bare rations, for seven months. This is naturally a constant subject of bitter complaint, some of the complainants having had recourse to me, begging me to inform you, Sir, and his Excellency the Ambassador of the fact of their utter penury. As a consequence of this neglect on the part of the Government many have quite recently left the force, as many as twenty-five of those employed in this sandjak having, within my knowledge, given in their resignation on the same day. More talk of leaving the service, while those who remain are driven to every sort of dishonest and underhand contrivance in order to obtain a subsistence, such as taking bribes from criminals whom they are sent to arrest, pilfering in the villages where their duty, or neglect of it, takes them, and, in short, every kind of disreputable proceeding to which their unpaid, ill-clothed, and ill-fed condition forces them to have recourse.

The duties of a foot zaptieh are to mount guard at the gate of the gaol, and to stand sentry at the main entrance to the Government buildings; to attend in the Law Courts, and fetch persons summoned by the Public Prosecutor, the Presidents of the Courts, and other judicial functionaries; to stand sentry at the doors of the chief officials, such as the Vali, the Defterdar, Mektoubdji, and Muddaï Oumoumi, and to summon to the presence of these functionaries any persons whom they may be directed to fetch; to patrol the main streets and thoroughfares of the towns both night and day and see that order is maintained; to arrest criminals and suspected persons; to accompany the tax-collectors on their rounds—and, in short, to perform all and every one of the functions usually performed by policemen.

Mounted zaptiehs have to accompany the post, officials, travellers, and others during their journey; to collect taxes, sometimes alone and sometimes accompanying the tax-collectors themselves; to take official notes or messages to the cazas from the towns; to go in pursuit of and arrest all highway robbers, thieves, and malefactors generally, soldiers deserting from the army, and all suspected persons; to see that all travellers are

provided with "jolemris" (passes), and to arrest those not so provided and unable to give a good account of themselves; to be on duty at the "devrents" or guard-houses in those parts of the country which have come to be considered dangerous because the haunt of robbers; if in a town to join at night in the patrol of the streets up to 6 o'clock (Turkish time); in the case of large fairs to patrol the chief roads leading to the town or village where the fair is being held and to protect those frequenting the same, &c.

The zaptiehs are armed mostly with the Winchester rifle, but some of the foot zaptiehs carry old flint-locks. They have to provide themselves with a uniform, and if mounted, with a horse and saddle: for the uniform 300 piastres, and for the saddle 350 piastres, being deducted from their first year's pay. They are provided by Government with ammunition, but (I understand) only when sent on errands in which danger is apprehended; otherwise they are not supplied with cartridges, an instance of economy carried to excess which has not unfrequently led to the most deplorable results. Only the other day a zaptieh lost his life, near Tokat, in an encounter with some robbers, owing to the fact of his carrying an empty rifle. On his return from active duty to head-quarters every zaptieh has, if he has been supplied with ammunition, to account for the amount expended, every cartridge used, except in self-defence, or in the execution of his duty, being paid for at the rate of 90 paras (about 5*d.*) each, a rigid account being kept.

Besides the zaptieh force there is in this vilayet a subsidiary body of mounted police known as "kurserdars," and numbering about 60 men and 4 officers (2 Captains and 2 Lieutenants). These men receive the same pay and rations, and perform the same functions, as mounted zaptiehs, the only difference being that they are not distinguished by any uniform, nor are they allowed Government saddles, such as are sold to the former. They consist mostly of Circassians, for whom the life seems to have peculiar charms, offering them, as it does, unusual opportunities of helping themselves at the expense of the public. This body has earned for itself a most unenviable reputation by the various acts of extortion and oppression of which its members have been guilty. The protection they afford the country is certainly very small, and I have frequently been assured that they are almost, if not quite, as bad as the robbers in pursuit of whom they are sent. Of the four officers commanding this force, two—a Captain and Lieutenant—are stationed in Sivas, never leaving this sandjak, and the other two are at Tokat. I hear that there are no kurserdars in the Amasia Sandjak, and only ten in that of Kara-hissar. Many of those employed in this sandjak are on duty at or near Azizieh. This body of police acts under the orders of the Alaï Bey or the Vali directly, in the same way as the regular force.

You will see, Sir, in the inclosed Table that, according to the computation made, the cost of maintaining the zaptieh force in this vilayet, together with that of the kurserdars, amounts to nearly £ T. 11,500 yearly, although, of course, taking into consideration the arrears of pay, the Government has not actually expended that sum during the last year. It is not a very large sum, considering the large extent of country for which it provides protectors; in Europe, indeed, it would be deemed utterly inadequate; but even if it were regularly paid, the complaints now heard on all sides would undoubtedly be, to a great extent, hushed, but as long as the present unfortunate system of arrears of pay is persisted in, the protection and preservation of life and property in this vilayet will remain as conspicuous by its absence as hitherto. It is, I am afraid, true that the *morale* of the zaptieh force is at present very low, from the causes above alluded to, and unless something be done, and that speedily, to remedy the evils of non-payment, ill-feeding, and half-clothing, the country will fail to reap any benefit whatever from the prolonged existence of this body. The pay, 90 piastres per month for a mounted, and 70 piastres per month for a foot, zaptieh, is extremely small, especially in the case of the latter, although perhaps the former suffers most on the whole. A zaptieh on first entering the mounted force has to buy his horse, which, at a moderate computation, costs him £ T. 7; his uniform costs him 3 liras and his saddle 3½ liras, the whole amounting to £ T. 13 50 prs. His pay is 90 piastres a-month, i.e., 1,080 piastres a-year, and exclusive of provender for his horse, his rations of 30 paras a-day, which is 273¾ piastres a-year, give a total of 1,353¾ piastres, so that for the first year he is literally penniless. This is a very serious drawback, and one which acts as a strong deterrent in many cases, where otherwise men would be glad to join the force, and this, of course, is more especially the case when they see that pay is seven months in arrears, leaving the unfortunate men no choice but dishonesty or abandonment of the service.

In conclusion, I will merely add what I should have mentioned previously, viz., that the 425 non-commissioned officers and men are apportioned as follows:—

Sandjak of Sivas, 199, of which 112 (70 mounted and 42 foot zaptiehs), are employed in Sivas itself and the home caza, and the rest, 87, in the other cazas.

Sandjak of Amasia, 100, of which 56 (36 mounted and 21 foot zaptiehs) are employed in Amasia itself and the home cazas, the remainder, 44, in the other Cazas.

Sandjak of Tokat, 63, of which 25 (11 mounted and 14 foot zaptiehs) are employed in Tokat itself and the home Caza, the rest, 38, in the other cazas.

Sandjak of Kara-hissar, 73, of which 43 (17 mounted and 26 foot zaptiehs) are employed in Kara-hissar itself and the home caza, the rest, 30, in the other cazas.

As regards the kurserdars, their movements are so uncertain, and even their numbers not clearly known (I have given 60 as an approximate calculation), that I cannot state precisely how many should be assigned to each sandjak, but I believe there are 20 here in Sivas and neighbourhood, 15 at or about Azizieh, 15 in the Tokat Sandjak, and the remainder in Kara-hissar.

I find, Sir, that in calculating the average number of zaptiehs to a caza in this vilayet, I did not include the kurserdars, whose numbers I have given as 60. This, though an error on my part, is not so great as it at first sight appears, for this force, though nominally a police force on an equality with the zaptiehs, is in reality an irregular body of horse, acting more or less on its own account, and not considering itself amenable to the rules and regulations which the regular mounted zaptieh force is bound to observe. I do not mean to imply that they are actually privileged in any way, but long-continued habit has produced this effect of slackness of discipline and freedom from control which has been and is so much deplored.

Be that as it may, the Imperial Government has decided to do away with this body, as I understand from his Excellency the Vali, he having received orders from Constantinople to make no fresh appointments, as this irregular force was to be superseded by a gendarmerie, officered by military men.

As regards the supreme control of the Alaï Bey over the zaptieh force, I should rather have stated that the Vali shares this command, being at liberty to dispose of the police as he thinks fit.

Pensions are very rarely given to zaptiehs, and then only in cases where a term of from forty to sixty years has been spent in the country's service. Personally I have heard of two instances of a pension being allowed, and in both cases the recipients had been fifty years in the force. They were granted 80 piastres per month each until their death.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 130.

THE Zaptieh Force—Vilayet of Sivas.

Rank.	No. of same in Vilayet.	Monthly Pay.	Daily Rations.	Cost of Maintenance per annum, Pay and Rations.
		Piastres.		Piastres.
Alaï Bey	1	2,000	Bread, barley, and chopped straw, of value of 6½ piastres	26,372½
Tabour Agassi.. ..	4	900	Bread, barley, and chopped straw, of value of 4 piastres	49,040
Alaï Kyatibi	1	750	Ditto	10,460
Tabour Kyatibi ..	4	400	Ditto	25,040
Captain (mounted) ..	4	400	Ditto	25,040
Captain (foot).. ..	3*	350	Bread of value of 1½ piastres ..	18,990
Lieutenant (mounted) ..	4	250	Bread, barley, and chopped straw, of value of 4 piastres	17,840
Lieutenant (foot) ..	3*	200	Bread of value of 1½ piastres ..	8,842½
Tournal Emini ..	4	150	Bread, barley, and chopped straw, of value of 3½ piastres	11,945
Sergeant (mounted) ..	15	110	Ditto	37,593¾
Sergeant (foot) ..	12	90	Bread of value of 30 paras ..	16,239
Corporal (mounted) ..	18	100	Bread, barley, and chopped straw, of value of 3½ piastres	42,952
Corporal (foot) ..	9	80	Bread of value of 30 paras ..	11,100
Private (mounted) ..	225	90	Bread, barley, and chopped straw, of value of 3½ piastres	509,906¼
Private (foot)	156	70	Bread of value of 30 paras ..	173,745
Total ..	..	..	.. ..	985,106¼

Cost of maintaining an additional force of "kurserdars," numbering 60 men and 4 officers :—

	Piastres.
Non-commissioned officers and men	135,975
Captains (2)	12,520
Lieutenants (2)	8,920
Total	157,415

Total cost of maintaining whole force :—

Piastres. 985,106¼ + Piastres. 157,415 = Piastres. 1,142,521¼

(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 131.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 20.)

(No. 474.) *Constantinople, June* 13, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Biliotti containing information respecting the district of Tcharchamba.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 131.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 31.) *Trebizond, May* 31, 1881.

Sir,

LETTERS lately received from Tcharchamba by the Armenian Bishop state that great pressure is exercised by the Government on the populations of that district for the payment of arrears of taxation and rent; that a considerable number of Mussulmans and Christians have been put in prison; that some Armenian families have already emigrated to Russia; and that many are making preparations of

* There should be one in each sandjak, but none at present in Tokat.

departure; that forty of them have already obtained passports, on the delivery of which 10 liras were exacted by the Mutessarif, but that the Russian Consul refused to allow them to depart for Russia; that the Cadi, who is the President of the Courts of Justice, does not pay heed to the complaints of the inhabitants, and that if Yussuf Pasha, the Commissioner for Reforms, or the Judicial Inspector of this vilayet, do not proceed there and investigate the condition of the district, the sufferings of the populations will keep increasing, and the whole district be ruined.

I have had the honour to explain in detail in my despatch No. 38 of the 29th August last the nature of the contestation between a certain Nouri Bey of Oonich and the inhabitants of Tcharchamba for the ownership of certain lands on which both put forward claims. Of course the Government have a right to enforce the payment of taxes, but should the arrears of rent be exacted at the same time, before the main question of the ownership of the soil be settled, the populations may be subject to undue hardship, and to irreparable loss.

Yussuf Pasha having since some time already asked the Porte to be authorized to proceed to Tcharchamba and investigate the case, it is difficult to understand why he is not ordered to do so at once, instead of being allowed to remain idle at Trebizond for the last six months.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 132.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 20.)

(No. 475.) *Constantinople, June* 13, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed to me by Captain Stewart.

Under the circumstances described by him, I have expressed to him my concurrence in his proposed action with regard to Ali Pasha.

I trust that my having done so will meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 132.

Captain Stewart to Mr. Plunkett.

Deyr, May 21, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Vali of Aleppo, Jemal Pasha, is desirous of procuring the dismissal of Ali Pasha, the present Mutessarif of Deyr, on the ground that he is corrupt and inefficient.

During my present journey I have made a point of inquiring what the people think of Ali Pasha, and the general opinion appears to be that, on the whole, he is a good Governor. The inhabitants of some of the desert villages, such as Jokena, complained that they were not sufficiently protected against the Bedouins, and that when they made complaints they got no redress. This laxity may, however, be due as much to the weakness of the Local Government as to the influence of bribery.

That Ali Pasha is free from the taint of bribery I am very far from thinking, more especially as I am told he is heavily in debt; but from the little I have heard I am inclined to think he is better than the ordinary run of Pashas. Mr. Henderson, who has had a long experience of him, has a high opinion of his capacity and of his friendliness to the English, and has always exerted his influence to keep him in his present post.

I do not know how far you will approve interfering with the Vali in the choice of his officials, but as Mr. Henderson has made a point of supporting Ali Pasha, I feel more or less bound to carry out his policy.

On my return to Aleppo, unless I get further and very conclusive evidence of Ali Pasha's incapacity, I shall inform the Vali that I consider Ali Pasha, on the whole, a very fair Governor, and should he still insist on trying to get him dismissed, I shall telegraph to you.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 133.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 490.) *Constantinople, June 20, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Assistant Richards to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson on the subject of the reported discontent among the refugees from Kars, and the reported departure of some families.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 133.

Mr. Richards to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 9.) *Sivas, May 29, 1881.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward a few remarks relating to the refugees from Kars now in this vilayet.

Knowing, Sir, that you take a deep interest in the welfare, as far as is compatible with their circumstances, of these unfortunate people, I have from time to time made inquiries as to what measures have been taken to establish them in this province, and, I am sorry to say, have invariably received very unsatisfactory answers.

I am informed on good authority that there are at present about 6,800 families of refugees in this vilayet, of which 700 families are in Sivas and immediate neighbourhood. Of these 6,800 families only 500 have been actually established; the remaining 6,300 are leading a very wretched hand-to-mouth existence, some dependent on the charity of private individuals, and assisting their protectors in the house, the shop, or the field, as far as lies in their power; others crowded together in the court-yards of mosques, disused barns, outhouses, and such places; and others, again—the majority—either encamped in the open near the principal towns, or distributed through the villages to find a shelter where possible, and very frequently failing in their search suffering greatly from want and the inclemency of the weather. Fortunately, however, the past winter, though unusually protracted, has not been very severe, otherwise their sufferings would have been almost unbearable.

As regards rations, which, as you, Sir, are aware, the Government has long since ceased to distribute from lack of funds, I am informed that out of 700 families in this city, only 200 were aided in this way, these receiving 40 okes of bread a-head—not a very munificent allowance. It must be borne in mind that the majority of the refugees in Sivas are extremely poor, only 100 out of the 700 families being in moderate circumstances, *e.g.*, shopkeepers, artizans, proprietors of cafés, &c. It was from this class of men that the Government, as I mentioned, Sir, in a former despatch, No. 6 of the 14th April), tried to exact the tax known as "temettou," (quasi income tax of 3 per cent.), and only desisted from pressing their claim after continual entreaty and remonstrance. The refugees have complained bitterly for some months past of the apathy and apparent indifference of the Imperial Government to their distress, when at length, about a month ago, Mehmet Ali Effendi, the President of the Refugee Commission, offered them a plot of ground on the outskirts of the town, which appeared at first sight to be suited to such a purpose. It proved, however on examination, to be without a supply of water, a very serious and, indeed, almost insurmountable obstacle; such, at all events, it was considered, and the offer was refused. Ever since this abortive attempt to satisfy their claims, the feeling of discontent and irritation among the refugees at what is wrongly considered to be wilful neglect on the part of the Government, has been daily gaining ground, the more so as they watched with dismay the rapid approach of summer and reflected on the to them alarming fact of seed not yet sown, until a week ago I was assured by one of them, a small tradesman and semi-acknowledged leader, that if the Government hesitates to take prompt measures for the relief of their present distress, in a week's time (so he said) twenty families would leave Sivas and return to Kars, to be followed by the rest as soon as their preparations were completed. The same informant also assured me that fifty families of refugees also intended to leave Josgat about the same time, unless any

thing transpired in the meanwhile to cause them to alter their plans. This information was subsequently confirmed in a different quarter. I had previously learnt, although not, I confess, from official sources, that 160 families of refugees had left the neighbourhood of Erzeroum, and returned to Russian territory, in spite of repeated attempts on the part of Turkish officials to prevent their departure, troops being even sent in pursuit which, owing to the large numbers of the former, failed to effect their arrest.

The news of the intended departure of the refugees having been reported to Constantinople, orders were received here that on no account should the refugees be allowed to return to Russian territory, and that land should be allotted to them for building purposes as soon as possible. This announcement, coupled with the fact that Mustapha Pasha, who has recently been appointed Refugee Commissioner, is on his way here, being at present at Lileh, in the Sandjak of Tokat, will undoubtedly have a cheering effect on the refugees and induce them, I hope, to abandon their intention of leaving the town. As regards those who intend to leave Josgat, I have no recent information.

The Kars refugees in this vilayet are all Moslems, but I understand that 300 Christian families, following the example of 2,000 of their co-religionists and fellow-townsmen, who migrated from Kars to Erzeroum last year, are expected to leave Russian territory shortly for this vilayet and that of Angora, an augmentation of their present overwhelming numbers which is strongly to be deprecated.

It may seem at first rather hard to reconcile the conflicting accounts of refugees both coming from and returning to Kars, except by supposing that the former, anxious to escape from subjection to a foreign and hostile Power, are still sanguine as to a kindly welcome and hospitable shelter on Turkish soil, while the latter, sick at heart by hope long deferred, have decided on submitting to the lesser of two evils, viz., the gaining a certain though precarious livelihood as Russian subjects instead of starving as Turks. Any and all of those who return to Kars have, I hear, been promised by the Russian authorities a restitution of the property they owned there previous to their emigration.

I will add, in conclusion, that the numbers I have here given of the refugees now in the vilayet are rather more than what I have stated in a former despatch (No. 6 of the 14th April), but I have good reason to believe that the statement herein made is the more correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

May 31.—Have just been informed that Mehmet Ali Effendi has offered the refugees a large piece of ground close to the town, which is admirably situated and, I believe, satisfies all parties. The measurement of the same has just been commenced. I trust that the difficulty is now solved, and that complaints will no longer be heard.

W. S. R.

No. 134.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 492.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June 20, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Acting Consul-General Dickson to Mr. Goschen, with regard to a disturbance that recently took place among the Ansariyeh tribes near Hamah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 134.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 31.) *Beyrout, June* 6, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that recently a disturbance took place among the Ansarieh tribes inhabiting the district in the neighbourhood of Hamah. It appears that the tribe of Honasch Bey, of Djebel Kelbié, attacked the villages of Tel-Selhab and Abou Kobeiss, and in the conflict that ensued about sixty persons were killed and wounded. According to the accounts that reach me, the prompt measures taken by the authorities in dispatching a battalion of troops to the scene of trouble, appear to have restored tranquillity, but I have not as yet received the report of the British Vice-Consul at Lattakia, and therefore am unable to furnish your Excellency with full details on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 135.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 27.)

(No. 493. Confidential.) *Constantinople, June* 20, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Clayton to Major Trotter, forwarding statistics of the population, and a map of the Vilayet of Van, together with a copy of a confidential despatch from Captain Clayton to Major Trotter, giving the authority on which his statistics are based.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 135.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 24.) *Van, May* 16, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose Tables of the population of the Vilayet of Van (including Hakkiari), which I am inclined to believe are fairly correct as regards the sedentary inhabitants. The numbers given for the nomad Kurds can only be regarded as a very rough estimate. I also inclose a sketch map of the vilayet which I have prepared, showing in a general way the distribution of the different races in the cazas which compose the vilayet. The boundaries of the cazas must not, however, be taken as strictly accurate.

In addition to the information that may be gathered from an inspection of the Tables and map, I may observe that in the districts in which Armenians and Moslems are mixed, as a general rule the Armenians and Turks are collected in the low ground, while the Kurds occupy the more hilly parts of the country; so that it would probably be possible to divide the country into communes, in which there should be a very decided majority of either Armenians or Kurds, as the case may be. Except in the city of Van itself, the Turks are so few in number that in most communes they would probably have little numerical importance. Similarly where Kurds and Nestorians are mixed, it is generally the case that certain valleys and districts are principally Nestorian, and others principally Kurdish. But there are exceptions to these rules. In addition to the Nestorians in the Vilayet of Van, there are a considerable number in Persian territory, and in the Vilayet of Mosul. The Jews are only found in three villages, viz.: 978 in Bashkala, 126 in Diza, and 224 in Neri, the village of Sheikh Obeydullah.

I have not yet information to enable me to make similar Tables and map for the Bitlis vilayet, but I hope to be able to obtain the necessary information before long.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 135.

POPULATION of Vilayet of Van (including Hakkiari).

Kazas.	No. of Villages.	No. of Houses.	Armenians.	Turks.	Sedentary Kurds.	Yezidis.	Nestorians.	Jews.
Sandjak of Van.								
City of Van	..	4,365	18,460	12,050	..	..	..	..
Kaza of—								
Van	210	4,982	30,865	3,000	1,450	..	..	..
Pergri	91	1,200	1,969	..	5,000	400	..	..
Mahmoudié ..	143	3,700	1,966	..	6,990	2,100	660	..
Shaddakh	156	2,400	9,485	..	5,816	..	447	..
Moks	64	1,300	3,714	..	4,293	..	..	..
Gamash	102	3,420	18,745	..	15,000	..	..	..
El Jivas	40	1,463	10,615	3,675	2,000	..	..	..
Arjesh	150	3,000	10,569	2,904	5,012	..	..	..
Sandjak of Hakkiari.								
Kaza of—								
Elbak	142	4,208	4,239	..	7,559	..	2,116	978
Gevver	295	8,757	1,024	..	31,518	..	14,245	350
Julamerik	202	7,865	885	..	21,180	..	53,869	..
Total	1,595	46,660	112,536	21,629	105,818	2,500	71,337	1,328

NOMAD KURDS.

Tribes.	Tents.	Souls.	Remarks.
Sharafauli	200	1,200	
Mahmedauli	150	900	
Seïdauli	60	360	
Beïdganli	100	600	
Hartushli	250	1,500	
Hadjanauli	300	1,800	
Ghevdauli	100	600	
Sivgauli	150	900	
Mavoushauli	250	1,500	
Gedjauli	350	2,100	
Khergauli	140	840	These tribes remain in Mosul and Diarbekir during winter, and in summer come to the mountain districts of Moks, Shaddakh, Murdiz, Julamerik, and Gevver.
Dajauli..	250	1,500	
Balkauli	50	300	
Patianli	150	900	
Miranli	300	1,800	
Alganli	200	1,200	
Duderli	300	1,800	
Garissanli	150	900	
Mehmedpirauli	100	600	
Sdavegauli	150	900	
Shidauli	150	900	
Herikli..	500	3,000	
Keshgauli	160	960	
Haverli	400	2,400	
Total	4,910	29,460	
Mougourli	300	2,100	These tribes are in Persia in the winter and in summer spread themselves over the frontier districts of Arjesh, Pergri, Mahmoudié, Elbak, and neighbourhood.
Tagourli	150	1,050	
Shemsikli	400	2,800	
Milanli..	100	700	
Shikakli	250	1,750	
Haidarauli	1,100	7,700	
Livili	100	700	
Yezidis..	350	2,450	
Total	2,750	19,250	

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON, *Captain, R.A.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 135.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 25. Confidential.)

Van, May 16, 1881.

Sir,

WITH reference to the population statistics inclosed in my despatch No. 24 of this day's date, I have to inform you that some time ago the Armenian Council here received instructions from the Patriarch at Constantinople to make a new and accurate enumeration of the people. The Tables I have forwarded are based on this enumeration. I am assured that the numbers are absolutely accurate as regards the Armenians, and in most cases as regards the Turks and settled Kurds, though in a few instances, where round numbers appear, there is some uncertainty. In all cases the numbers include men, women, and children.

It is necessary to add that the Turkish authorities, when they became aware of what was being done, tried to stop the work, arrested some of the Armenian enumerators, and confiscated their papers. The Vali also told me, in a private conversation, that the Government did not wish any enumeration of the people to be made, because the Armenians were trying to base on their numbers a demand for autonomy; and, moreover, that the Porte was suspicious of the agents I had employed to distribute famine relief, thinking they were collecting statistical information. I reassured him on this point, but it is well not to lose sight of the sentiments of the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 136.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 27.)

(No. 495.)

Therapia, June 21, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a note from the Porte, calling attention to the expedition of Vice-Consul Stewart among the nomad tribes of Hama, during the course of which it is alleged that he distributed robes of honour ("khilat") amongst the Sheikhs.

The note further remarks that such peregrinations are likely to prove the cause of serious inconvenience.

Before replying, I propose communicating with Consul-General Wilson and with Captain Stewart, and ascertaining the facts of the case. Captain Stewart was duly authorized to make the journey in question at the instance of Consul-General Wilson.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Memorandum.

M. LE Vice-Consul d'Angleterre à Alep parcourt en ce moment les tribus nomades de Hama, accompagné de son Drogman. Les conditions dans lesquelles le fait s'est produit n'ont pas manqué d'attirer l'attention des autorités Impériales. Le Vice-Consul a été visiter les Scheiks, et leur a distribué des habits ("khilat").

De telles pérégrinations ne sauraient se prolonger, ni se renouveler sans de sérieux inconvénients locaux. Prière à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique de vouloir bien inviter son Agent à Alep à renoncer aux tournées comme celles qu'il vient d'accomplir.

Sublime Porte, le 15 *Juin*, 1881.

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